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NO. 7504 MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1989 SHABAN 6, 1409 AH 16 PAGES 150 FILLS

Conflict closes Beirut airport

BEIRUT, March 12. (Reuters): Christian Army troops battled Druze militiamen southeast of Beirut today as a power struggle between Lebanon's rival cabinets halted flights at the only civilian airport.

Security sources said Muslim fighters of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) traded artillery fire with troops loyal to Army commander Major General Michel Aoun.

Shells slammed into nearby mountain towns but there was no word on casualties from the clashes, the second round of battles between the two sides within 24 hours.

The fighting was sparked by a blockade of militia ports ordered last week by Aoun, who heads Lebanon's Christian administration. Two of the seven ports involved are run by the PSP.

The blockade threatens to spark a major showdown between Aoun and rival Muslim groups. Families along the Green Line dividing Beirut into Christian and Muslim sectors began sandbagging doors and windows today in fear of fresh fighting.

Beirut airport, the country's only civilian airfield, lies south of the capital in an area controlled by Syrian troops and the Syrian-backed Muslim government of acting Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss.

It has been repeatedly closed, often for months at a time, in Lebanon's nearly 14 years of civil war.

Aoun's government ordered the airport closed yesterday but Muslim leaders vowed to keep it open and said they would not accept the loss of their outlets to the sea.

But Middle East Airlines, the country's national carrier, halted its flights today and a Bulgarian flight, the only other plane due in today, was also cancelled.

Charles and Diana arrive

Sheikh Saad receives royal couple

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times Staff

THE Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday arrived in Kuwait at the beginning of their five-day Gulf tour. They were received by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

The royal flight touched down exactly on schedule at 7.50 pm. First to greet the royal couple, as they appeared in the doorway of the Royal Air Force VC 10, was the British Ambassador to Kuwait, Peter Hinchcliffe.

Princess Diana, clad in a two-piece navy blue and white silk dress and a wide-brimmed white hat followed Prince Charles down the mobile staircase.

After the exchange of greetings with Sheikh Saad the royal couple were introduced to the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and Sheikh Saad's daughter Sheikhah Mariam. They also met the Minister of Planning, Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, who heads the mission of honour and Mrs Al Awadi.

Security at the airport was

tight with mobile machineguns being placed at several points on the apron. Journalists attending the arrival ceremony were body-searched.

Two Kuwaiti girls presented Prince Charles and Princess Diana with bouquets of flowers. As the Guard of Honour

PRINCE Charles yesterday expressed an interest in Kuwait's press and inquired whether English is widely spoken in Kuwait. In a conversation with the Arab Times/Al Seyassah reporter Mohammed Bargass at the reception to inaugurate the new British Embassy Consular and Commercial Office Prince Charles inquired about the number of daily newspapers in Kuwait and the Arab Times' circulation. He also wanted to know whether the Kuwaitis are keen on learning English.

"What language do you think my children should learn," he asked Mohammed who replied without hesitation: "Arabic, of course."

saluted, the Undersecretary of the Crown Prince's Diwan, Abdullah Al Bahar, presented cabinet ministers and senior

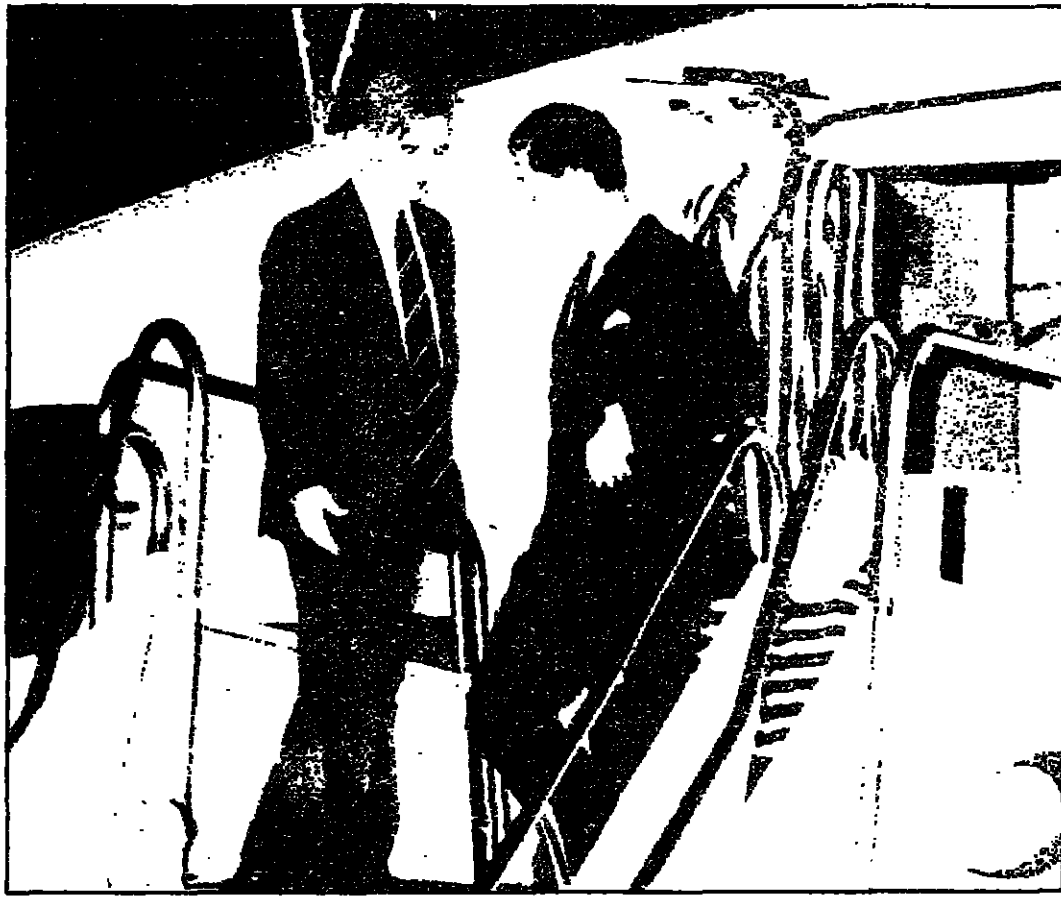
officials to the royal couple.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were accompanied by a retinue of 10, headed by the Prince's equerry Lieutenant Commander Patrick Jephson and Princess Diana's lady-in-waiting Miss Alexandra Lloyd.

After a brief reception at the VIP lounge the motorcade left for Al Salam Palace where the couple will be residing during their stay in Kuwait.

Later in the evening Prince Charles inaugurated the new British Embassy Commercial and Consular Office. During the inaugural reception he met a number of prominent Kuwaiti officials and businessmen. Later he attended a dinner hosted by the British ambassador.

Today the royal couple will carry out a series of engagements starting with an audience with HH the Amir who will also host a lunch in their honour. After a morning audience with Sheikh Saad, Prince Charles will address a British Invisibles Exports seminar at the Central Bank while the Princess of Wales will visit the Handicapped Society. Prince Charles will also attend a British Council exhibition on British Higher Education.



The British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe exchanges a few words with Prince Charles and Princess Diana minutes after the royal couple's arrival. (Photo by Amr Jedid)

Mahdi in trouble in forming a cabinet

KHARTOUM, March 12. (AP): The State Council, Sudan's collective presidency accepted the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi today, but the premier is facing various problems in trying to form a new cabinet.

Al Mahdi handed his cabinet's resignation yesterday to the council under pressure from labour unions and the military over his failure to end Sudan's civil war.

The Army, joined by unions and other political powers, had issued an ultimatum to form a broad-based government and start peace talks with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Newspapers said today the outgoing cabinet junior partner, the powerful fundamentalist National Islamic Front, is expected to stay out of the new peace government because of its objection to a tentative settlement that would freeze Islamic law in Sudan.

Fighting flares up

Afghan President appeals to UN

ISLAMABAD, March 12. (Agencies): President Najibullah issued a new appeal to the United Nations to help bring peace to Afghanistan as rebel sources reported continued fighting today near the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Najibullah's message to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, reported by Kabul Radio, also accused Pakistan of sending commandos and military helicopters to aid the rebels.

Rebel sources in Pakistan said mujahadeen guerrillas were fighting near the gates of Jalalabad airport today and had knocked out two tanks.

Thousands of Afghans were fleeing towards the Pakistani border 70 km (45 miles) away to escape the shelling from both sides and bombing by Kabul government planes, the sources said.

Independent confirmation was not available.

The city is seen by the guerrillas as a stepping stone to the capital of Kabul, 75 miles (125 kilometres) to the west.

"Fighting is close to and around the city," said Mohammad Shoaib of the Jamiat-e-Islami group. "There are rumours that some mujahadeen (guerrillas) have entered the city from the north, but there is no confirmation."

Several guerrilla sources said the insurgents now control a key government garrison on the outskirts of Jalalabad, which is 45 miles (70 kilometres) west of the border with Pakistan where many guerrilla groups are based.

The guerrillas captured as many as 500 government troops in the battle for the post, said Naem Majrooh of the Afghan Information Centre, which opposes the Marxist government.

Majrooh said casualty figures "are very high. Most of the deaths are from mines and bombardments."

A senior Afghan officer told reporters in Kabul today that the week-long battle for Jalalabad, the third largest city in Afghanistan, had caused the heaviest casualties of the 10-year-old civil war.

Lieutenant General Abdul Haq Ullumi put mujahadeen losses at about 2,000, a figure dismissed by the rebels.

Since the last of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops withdrew on Feb 15, Najibullah has sent a series of appeals to world bodies and governments asking for their help in bringing the rebels to the negotiating table.

His letter to Perez de Cuellar reiterated charges that Pakistan and the United States were violating last April's UN-mediated peace accords by their support for the rebels.

Pakistan has denied Kabul's allegations.

Libya and Iraq have promised to recognise a self-proclaimed Islamic government of Afghanistan, a rebel news agency reported today.

The United States, fearful that hundreds of Stinger missiles it sold to Afghan rebels may fall into the hands of private arms dealers or terrorists, is devising a plan to buy back the weapons, the New York Times reported.

Ignored

The Islamic law theoretically is in force but in practice is ignored and none of its penalties has been implemented since the ouster of long-time dictator Jaafar Numeiri in 1985.

There was no word on when the new government will be named. The city, tense since the Army's ultimatum three weeks ago, was quiet today. But many riot police, in helmets with shields and batons, stood on curbs and street corners.

The independent daily newspaper Al Khartoum reported that Al Mahdi's new government will include eight seats for his Umma Party, five for the centrist Democratic Unionist Party and two for the powerful trade unions and professional associations.

It would be the first time the unions and associations have shared power since a member of the Physicians' Syndicate headed a transitional cabinet for a year after the overthrow of Numeiri.

Al Khartoum said parties from war-torn southern Sudan would draw four portfolios and independent parties and national parties from western Sudan would get one each.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- جلال آباد کے کین شہر
- چوڑا کریم آباد رہے ہیں
- لاہور میں پنجاب اسمبلی کا اجلاس آج ہوگا
- بیروت کا ہوائی اڈہ بند کر دیا گیا
- کراچی میں طلباء کے گروہوں میں تصادم
- سوڈان کی کابینہ مستعفی ہو گئی
- ایم کیو ایم کے رہنما الطاف حسین پر قاتلانہ حملہ
- آپ کے مراسلات

WEATHER

GRADUAL increase of clouds with moderate south-easterly wind freshening at times.

State of sea: moderate to rough

High water: 4.00 am, 3.00 pm

Low water: 9.30 am, 10.20 pm

Sunrise: 6.00 am

Sunset: 5.35 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 25°C 77°F

Amman: 21°C 70°F

Falaka: 21°C 70°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 10°C 50°F

Amman: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 74 per cent

Amman: 68 per cent

Falaka: 75 per cent



Bomb blast

MANILA, March 12. (Reuters): A bomb was thrown at the house of Muslim Senator Mamintal Tamaro in Manila wounding one person, police said today.

Tamaro, who has called for the Philippines to ban British author Salman Rushdie's controversial novel The Satanic Verses, was not hurt in the blast last night.

Tamaro (left), who is the brother of the Filipino ambassador to Saudi Arabia is seen inspecting damage at his house.

Velayati stays away from OIC meeting

DUBAI, March 12. (Reuters): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will not attend an Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting in Riyadh tomorrow, Iranian sources said today.

Iran's delegation to the meeting left Tehran for Riyadh today headed by a relatively junior official.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said the delegation was headed by the deputy chief of Iran's Islamic Propagation Organisation, Mohammad Ali Tashkiri.

Velayati stayed away because of resistance from many Arab OIC states to making a political issue out of Salman Rushdie's novel The Satanic Verses, the sources said.

A special Iranian envoy, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, is touring the Gulf Arab states to try to muster support for a joint stance against the book.

Honasan plotting to oust Aquino

MANILA, March 12. (UPI): Fugitive coup leader Lieut Col Gregorio Honasan is planning a rebellion that calls for the withdrawal of military support for the government "at the proper time," an arrested police officer said today.

In a statement issued by his lawyer, police Maj. Reynaldo Cabatuan said Honasan asked for his support in another coup attempt, code-named "Constitutional coup" but he refused.

Cabatuan was arrested on Thursday at a posh Japanese restaurant. He has been implicated in at least two coup attempts staged by rightwing soldiers loyal to ousted President Ferdinand Marcos.

Cabatuan said Honasan's plot called for a "passive withdrawal" of military support for Aquino's government provided Honasan receives mass support from the general public.

Armed forces chief Gen. Renato de Villa said the military has learned of the plot earlier but the government was "not bothered by it."

"Anyone can make a plan but the question is can it be executed," De Villa told newsmen today. "Honasan's organization is now very weak and his capability has been greatly minimised."

Meanwhile, government troops backed by helicopter gunships battled communist guerrillas in southern Philippines, leaving 17 people dead in one of the bloodiest encounters this year, the military said today.

Lawyers for Marcos have blocked the transfer of bank documents relating to some \$6 million allegedly stashed in Geneva by the former Philippines president and members of his family, a Swiss judge said today.

(See Page 9)

Arafat ready to follow Sadat's path PLO to develop dialogue

ROME, March 12. (AP): PLO leader Yasser Arafat says he's ready to "go to Jerusalem," following the path of slain Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, to convince Israel to accept an international conference on the Middle East, according to an interview published today.

Arafat, in the interview in the Rome newspaper La Repubblica, also said that the PLO "will develop the dialogue underway with the American administration because much depends on Washington."

"We will insist on having international peace conference on the Middle East. If the United States wants to convene such a conference, the leaders of Israel, those intransigent, even before the doves, will agree to it," he was quoted as saying.

Asked how to break down Israel's resistance to the idea of having an international peace conference, with both the United States and the Soviet Union participating, Arafat said:

"I am ready to follow Sadat's path. To go to Jerusalem. But I



An Arab, suspected of stabbing an Israeli soldier in the West Bank, is being arrested. (See Page 4) (Reuter wirephoto)

am not Sadat. I move with full consent of the Arab leaders. The late Egyptian President went to Jerusalem without Arab assent and support, making concessions on the right of self-determination for Palestinians. A right that did not belong to him."

Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem in November 1977 helped pave the way for the 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Sadat was assassinated in October 1981.

The Bush administration plans to ask both Israel and the PLO to take a series of steps to ease tensions in the occupied territories, a senior US administration official said in Washington today.

Among the suggestions the administration is expected to put forward to Israel are: releasing some of the Palestinians arrested during the uprising, ending or limiting administrative detentions of Palestinians, reopening schools in the occupied territories.

The suggestions for the PLO are expected to include: a halt to violent demonstration in the territories, blocking anti-Israeli raids from southern Lebanon, stopping distribution of inflammatory leaflets. (See Page 4)

Sikh radicals murder 12 in Punjab

NEW DELHI, March 12. (AP): At least 12 people, including local leaders of two political parties, were killed by Sikh militants in an upsurge of violence in the troubled northwestern state of Punjab, news reports have said.

Suraj Prakash Malhotra, a local leader of the ruling Congress Party headed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and Gajjan Singh, a state leader of the Communist Party of India, were among the victims. Press Trust of India said yesterday.

The 10 others were killed in separate incidents across the prosperous state, which has been rent by six years of guerrilla warfare, the news agency said.

At least 2,400 people were killed by Sikh militants last year, more than double the number killed in 1987.

Municipal elections

PARIS, March 12. (Reuters): The first round of France's municipal elections was held today with a record number of candidates vying to control town halls, the traditional power base of national politicians.

Security operation underway after IRA hit list found

LONDON, March 12. (UPI): A massive security operation is underway to protect many of Britain's leading figures identified on a hit list of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, a London newspaper reported today.

Police believe an IRA unit on the loose in England includes an assassin trained and equipped as a sniper and that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is at the top of the list of potential targets, the

Sunday Times said.

Newspaper reports as to the number of targets vary, with figures ranging from 100 to 200 people being identified on a list found in December during a police raid of a London residence believed to be by an IRA bomb-making facility.

The Sunday Times said it has learned that besides Thatcher, other names on the list include members of the cabinet, former

ministers with Northern Ireland or defence connections and senior Members of Parliament who have been outspoken on Ulster issues.

Those most at risk have been given armed police bodyguards, unmarked police cars and specially trained drivers.

The Sunday Times said all the politicians on the deathlist have been interviewed by anti-terror-

ist police and given detailed advice on personal security measures.

These include checking their cars for bombs, varying their movements and ramming vehicles during an attack.

The Sunday Express reported that there are fears in the security services that the caches of plastic explosives and automatic rifles found in Britain were probably landed by ship in large quan-

ties, probably from Libya.

"We have already found so much Semtex (plastic explosive) that it is inconceivable that it was brought in by individuals," one source told the Sunday Express.

Remote beaches in north Wales are high on the suspect list for the landing of the deadly cargo — after a recent surveillance operation established IRA links between Manchester and coastal beaches.

Pan Am Boeing crash Call for probe

NEW YORK, March 12, (UPI): Angry relatives of victims of Pan Am Flight 103 yesterday called for a congressional investigation into the terrorist bombing of a Boeing 747 over Scotland that killed 259 passengers and 11 people on the ground in December.

Neither the US government nor the airline have answered questions about the Dec 21 crash, particularly why passengers were not warned of threats the airline received prior to the flight, victims' relatives said at a meeting with Scottish police officials.

The meeting was called to advise relatives of plans for the return of personal effects recovered from the crash site in Lockerbie, Scotland.

"The State Department has been a national disgrace," said Bert Ammerman of Victims of Pan Am Flight 103, an organization of relatives.

The group called for a full accounting of circumstances that led to the tragedy.

"We have a political action committee that is working on getting Congress to do a full investigation of the Flight 103 bombing," said Paul Hudson, head of the group. "We've also been trying to meet with administration officials but so far high-level State Department officials won't talk to us."

"People are concerned about the silence of our national leaders," Hudson said.

Crash jet seemed to lack power: survivors

DRYDEN, Canada, March 12, (UPI): Survivors of a plane crash that killed 24 people in central Canada said yesterday the Air Ontario jet seemed to lack sufficient power as it took off in a sandstorm and had to dump fuel at a previous stop to reduce weight.

Authorities found the bodies of 22 victims yesterday in the charred wreckage in a forest about half a mile (0.8 km) from the runway at the Dryden airport. Two other people died in hospital after Friday's crash.

At least 24 people, including three of four crew members, were killed in the afternoon crash of Air Ontario Flight 363, a Fokker F-28 jet bound for Winnipeg, Canada, with 65 passengers, officials said.

A passenger list was not immediately made available, but the company said yesterday that three employees were among the dead.

Norm Pascoe, a spokesman for Transport Canada, the government transportation agency in Ottawa, said there was heavy snow at the time of the crash and visibility was less than a mile (1.6 km).

The cockpit "black boxes," or voice and flight recorders, were recovered from the scene yesterday, said Joe Jackson, chief investigator with the Canadian aviation safety board.

Airline and safety board teams from Winnipeg, Toronto and Ottawa arrived yesterday at the crash site in Dryden, a town of about 7,000 people in western Ontario about 100 miles (160 km) north of the US border.

Armed troops patrol Karachi

KARACHI, March 12, (AP): Army troops in machine-gun mounted vehicles today patrolled two districts in this volatile seaport city where gunmen have killed five people and wounded at least seven in three days, officials said.

Karachi University was reported quiet today, a day after rival student political groups traded gunfire from windows and rooftops.

Chinese troops patrol streets of Lhasa



A group of Tibetan women try to break through police lines during a protest in New Delhi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Attack on Rogers' wife

Sports car suspected

SAN DIEGO, March 12, (Reuters): A pipe bomb and a red sports car have emerged as pieces in the puzzle of a suspected revenge bombing for the US downing of an Iranian airliner last year.

"There was definitely some sort of explosive device," Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman Gene Riehl said yesterday of the blast which destroyed a van driven by the wife of a US Navy captain whose ship downed the Iran Air jet last July 3 in the Gulf, with the loss of 290 lives. The FBI said it was treating the attack as a terrorist act to revenge the downing of Iranian airliner.

As bomb experts meticulously scoured the crime scene, a suburban San Diego street, the focus turned to who and what triggered the explosion which destroyed the van driven by Sharon Rogers, wife of USS Vincennes captain Will Rogers.

Several witnesses said they had seen a red sports car such as BMW or a Pontiac Trans-Am

with four passengers that appeared to be following the van driven by Mrs Rogers on Friday.

After the van burst into flames, the sports car pulled away fast, said John Christy, a construction site supervisor who carried Mrs Rogers to safety.

"It made a U-turn over the median" of the road, he said.

Christy added that the FBI and Navy investigators had interviewed him about the suspicious car.

The home of Capt. Will Rogers was sealed off and he and his wife, Sharon, were in hiding. There were reports they had received threatening calls about the missile strike on the airliner.

There also was increased security at several military facilities in San Diego, the nation's largest Navy complex.

The van was scrutinized yesterday by investigators from the FBI and other federal agencies, who had a command post set up nearby.

Another possible avenue of investigation is why the bomb did not explode when Captain Rogers used the van shortly before his wife drove it to the school where she teaches.

Rogers said he used the van on Friday on his usual early morning trip to buy coffee and doughnuts.

An FBI spokesman would not comment on any leads investigators may be following.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack but the FBI has said it is treating it as a terrorist act in revenge for the shooting down of the Iranian airliner.

Meanwhile an Iranian newspaper today accused Washington of bombing the van.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Kayhan International as saying Washington tried to blame Iran for bombing the van driven by the wife of USS Vincennes Captain Will Rogers.

It said the attack "will not be the last (American) attempt to implicate Iran."

BEIJING, March 12, (UPI): Tens of thousands of armed police and Chinese troops patrolled the riot-scarred streets of Lhasa today, checking identification cards of residents and making arrests, sources in the Tibetan capital said.

Reached by telephone from Beijing, the sources said there was no evidence of anti-Chinese unrest in the city as security forces maintained an iron grip on the city during its fourth day under martial law.

Beijing slapped a martial law decree on the city March 7 after three days of rioting by Tibetans protesting communist rule of the Himalayan region.

Official reports said 12 people died in the violence that began March 5 while foreign witnesses put the death toll at up to 75.

Telephone communication with the region was sporadic today with most of those reached refusing to discuss the situation in Lhasa.

The Communist Party newspaper People's Daily said that "the social order tended toward stability" in the Tibetan capital, with stores reopening and schools starting classes.

Ringed
But martial law, with its strictures on travel to a region ringed with thousands of police, troops and armed police, had sparked food shortages.

"In order to guarantee the food supply, we are trying to find the best way to marshal resources," the paper quoted Lhasa Mayor Luo Ga as saying.

Luo said the Lhasa government also planned to subsidize some food items, especially cooking oil, in an apparent move to prevent black marketeering.

In New Delhi, hundreds of Tibetan women protested Beijing's handling of the pro-independence unrest, the worst in the region since a bloody rebellion by Tibetans March 10, 1959 that was put down by the People's Liberation Army.

At least seven women required medical attention for heat prostration suffered when the protesters tried to force their way through a line of police at the India Gate war memorial, resulting in a crush of heaving bodies.

About 200 adult and teenage women marched to the memorial carrying banners depicting Chinese police gunning down Tibetans.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bush's performance

NEW YORK, March 12, (Reuters): Sixty-four per cent of Americans approve of President Bush's performance in office despite bitter controversy over his choice of John Tower as defence secretary, a Newsweek poll said yesterday.

Bush's approval rating rose from 55 per cent last month, and only 16 per cent said they disapproved of the way Bush is handling his job, the news magazine's poll said.

Lord Crook dies

LONDON, March 12, (AP): Lord Crook, a former British delegate to the United Nations and vice-president of the UN Administrative Tribunal for nearly 20 years, has died at the age of 88, his attorney said yesterday.

Boat capsizes

HAVANA, March 12, (Reuters): A Haitian boat headed for the United States capsized off the coast of Cuba yesterday and 23 people drowned, Prensa Latina news agency reported.

Guerrilla pardoned

BONN, March 12, (Reuters): West German President Richard von Weizsäcker has agreed to pardon a jailed former leftist guerrilla, Angelika Speitel, a presidential spokesman said today.

Quake in Malawi

BLANTYRE, Malawi, March 12, (Reuters): At least two people were killed and 24 were taken to hospital after an earthquake in Malawi, officials said today.

Death for spying

MOSCOW, March 12, (Reuters): A newspaper revealed yesterday that an assistant Soviet military attaché based in an unnamed European country was sentenced to death in 1986 after being found guilty for spying for US intelligence.

The disclosure in the Army daily Krasnaya Zvezda came two days after Washington announced the expulsion from the United States of another assistant Soviet military attaché, Yuri Pakhtusov, on charges of spying for the Kremlin.

Fire ravages slum

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, March 12, (AP): A fire swept through a hillside slum area in northern Rio yesterday leaving 500 people homeless, fire department officials said.

No one was hurt, Rio de Janeiro fire chief Lieut. Silvio Souza told the Associated Press by telephone.

Illegal protest

MOSCOW, March 12, (Reuters): At least 1,000 people defied police today and held an illegal protest against communist rule in a Moscow Square.

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Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

World leaders split on pollution

THE HAGUE, March 12, (AP): Heads of state and political leaders from 24 nations have proclaimed their willingness to use the United Nations in the fight against global air pollution.

But despite their show of unity over the principles of their agreement, several of the presidents, premiers and one king did not see eye to eye about what the UN's practical role should be.

The declaration signed in this diplomatic capital is being billed as a political statement that has no binding legal repercussions, and details remain to be worked out later.

The document would give the UN authority to set and monitor rules to cut emissions of man-made chemicals that are damaging earth's atmosphere.

Problems

"Pollution is not subject to norms of territorial sovereignty," proclaimed Jordan's King Hussein in an address before the document's signing ceremony.

"No individual state can deal with it on its own," said Hussein, warning that "failure is not an option. Success is imperative."

But early in the two-day conference, which began with preliminary talks by civil servants on Friday, problems

Declaration on environment

THE HAGUE, March 12, (Reuters): Following are highlights of the text of the declaration of The Hague, signed by 24 nations to boost efforts against pollution of the earth's atmosphere.

Without prejudice to the international obligations of each state, the signatories acknowledge and will promote the following principles:

A. The principle of developing, within the framework of the United Nations, new institutional authority, either by strengthening existing institutions or by creating a new institution, which, in the context of the preservation of the earth's atmosphere, shall be responsible for combating any further global warming of the atmosphere.

B. The principle that this institutional authority undertake or commission the necessary studies, be granted appropriate information upon request, ensure the circulation and exchange of scientific and technological information...

C. The principle of appropriate measures to promote the effective implementation of and compliance with the decisions of the new institutional authority, decisions of which will be subject to control by the international court of justice.

developed over which nations should carry most of the cost of cleaning up the global atmosphere.

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe said in his conference address that he was "frankly disappointed" that the document did not set up an international fund to help Third World nations meet their part of the environmental bill.

"There are shortages of resources and funds," complained Mugabe, who conceded the conference had shown "the political will to tackle the

problem."

India's Foreign Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, said "we should recognise the extreme disparities between the industrialised and the developing countries" as to their parts in causing environmental pollution.

"Countries in the initial stage of industrialisation should get adequate assistance," said President Daniel arap Moi of Kenya.

"God placed man in charge of this planet, but he brought destruction," he said. "We must restore order on our planet."

REPORT IN SIX WEEKS

US psychiatrists see Soviet wards

MOSCOW, March 12, (UPI): A team of US psychiatrists, lawyers and translators surfaced after two weeks of unprecedented visits to Soviet mental hospitals Saturday and announced their mission to see whether political dissidents were kept in psychiatric wards "met in most areas."

But the American psychiatrists also complained of some difficulties in obtaining medical records and some obstructions that had to be overcome before patients would be interviewed in some of the seven hospitals visited.

A clean bill of health from the State Department team would allow the Soviet Union to rejoin the World Psychiatric Association, which has ostracised it the last six years charging dissidents were locked up in mental wards. About to be expelled in 1983, the Soviets quit the body.

Yuri Reshetov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry department for humanitarian affairs, said that Moscow had applied for readmission to the World Psychiatric Association. A decision, he said, will be made at the body's next congress in Athens in October.

Findings

Almost immediately after arriving on Feb. 26, the State Department delegation, which included 14 psychiatrists, dropped from sight and spread out to seven hospitals in six cities under a self-imposed press blackout.

The delegation, including representatives of the American Psychiatric Association, re-emerged Saturday and said preliminary findings from their

unprecedented first person interviews with 27 Soviet patients will be published in about six weeks.

Dr. Loren Roth, psychiatric team leader from the University of Pittsburgh, pronounced himself largely satisfied with the trip's goals.

"The expectations of the American psychiatric delegation were met in most but not all areas," Roth said at the news conference at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

"In some instances, patients were discouraged from doing the interviews by the Soviets, and we had to overcome some obstacles to get the interviews at all," Roth said.

A delegation source said of the 48 patients, the American team had requested to talk with, they saw 27. One patient had died, another had emigrated, one had been transferred to prisons, others had been freed and some others refused to meet the delegation.

The American psychiatrists, accompanied by six translators, visited seven psychiatric clinics — two in Moscow and one each in Leningrad, Kazan, Vilnius, Kaunas and Chernyakhovsk.

To clean up the Soviet human rights record, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev began releasing political prisoners after coming to power in March 1985 to the extent that Western nations have now agreed to Moscow's hosting a human rights conference in 1991.

To ascertain whether the Soviets had freed persons detained in mental hospitals, the State Department sent the psychiatric delegation.

Natural disasters rising in Asia

BANGKOK, March 12, (Reuters): Natural disasters are becoming more frequent and severe in the developing nations of Asia, a United Nations body said in a report released today.

The Bangkok-based Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific blamed the trend on widespread damage to the environment from economic development and population

pressure, and urged countries to do more to protect the environment.

"The frequency and intensity of adverse natural phenomena and the extensiveness and severity of the damage caused by them seem to be increasing," its 1988 survey said.

It cited devastating floods last year in Bangladesh, China, Pakistan and Thailand, droughts in

China and an earthquake in Nepal that triggered mudslides and floods.

The floods killed hundreds of people and destroyed huge areas of crops.

Deforestation

The commission attributed the extent of the disasters to a general deterioration of the environment through large-scale cutting down of forests, soil

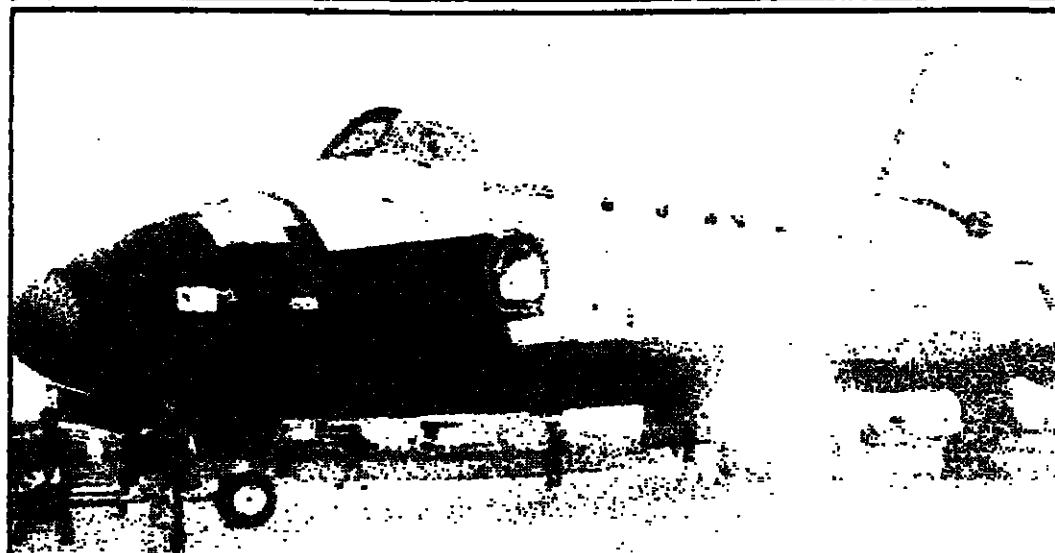
erosion, the spread of deserts and the waterlogging of land.

"Floods, mudslides, even earthquakes, and the droughts can be directly related to deforestation," it said.

Experts say the loss of forests can change weather patterns and leave land vulnerable to waterlogging and erosion. Thailand declared a nationwide logging ban after last year's

floods. In a statement attached to the survey, the commission urged countries to "integrate environmental considerations into every development activity."

If steps to protect the environment are taken, the commission said, "some future edition of the survey hopefully will be able to note the decreasing occurrence and severity of such disasters."



Shuttle ready

CAPE CANAVERAL, March 12, (UPI): Rocket engineers made up lost time and top NASA officials said the shuttle Discovery was on track for blastoff tomorrow on a flight to deploy a \$100 million communications satellite.

Astronaut Robert Crippen, chairman of NASA's mission management team, said no major problems were apparent and even the weather, which hampered work in the early hours of the

countdown, appeared to be co-operating with a 90 per cent chance of acceptable conditions at launch time tomorrow.

Back at the shuttle processing hangars 6.75 km from the launch pad, workers towed the shuttle Atlantis (above) to the vehicle assembly building for attachment to its boosters and external tank. The move came a day late because of time needed to clean up contamination in a fuel line fitting on the tank.

Keep quiet, released Singapore youths told

SINGAPORE, March 12, (UPI): Three young people jailed for a year without trials have been freed under the condition they keep silent about their ordeals.

The government said former Singapore Polytechnic lecturer Chong Suan Tze, law graduate Kevin De Souza and amateur dramatist Wong Sook Yee were released from detention yesterday on condition they make no public statements about their detention.

The three were initially rounded up with 19 others in May and June of 1987 and accused of involvement in a Marxist plot to topple the government.

They were freed in September but were among eight arrested last April after claiming they were tortured by government interrogators into making false confessions. All were rounded up under the country's internal security act, providing for indefinite incarcerations without trials.

Still in detention is lawyer Teo Soh Lung and former church worker Vincent Chong, whom the government identified as the ring-leader of the plot.

The government Friday banned Teo's British attorney, eminent human rights lawyer Anthony Lester, from practicing in Singapore courts after he charged lawyers here were afraid to represent suspected subversives.

In a statement from London, Lester said his immediate concern was for Teo, and his wider concern was for the rule of law in Singapore, which he could no longer help to uphold in her case or any other.

Papandreou faces 'no confidence'

ATHENS, March 12, (Reuters): Greece's main opposition leader, Constantine Mitsotakis, appealed to disgruntled Socialist deputies to censure their government as a way of ending a series of damaging scandals.

"Now is the time to distinguish the thieves from the honest," the leader of centre-right New Democracy Party told Parliament during a vote of confidence debate.

"You can stay together if you want and sink into the mire of the scandals. The choice is yours," he told members of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK).

Papandreou's government has been under fire for five months over a \$200-million bank scandal.

But the Prime Minister angrily rejected the charges of wrongdoing by his government and said all those responsible for the bank scandal would be punished.

He expressed confidence that his slim majority in Parliament would survive the vote of confidence, expected tomorrow

night, despite several PASOK deputies criticising the government over the Bank of Crete scandal.

"There will be no defections on this vote," he said. "The next elections will be held on schedule on June 18."

Mitsotakis must count on Socialist defections to win the confidence vote and force early elections. The Socialists hold 156 seats in the 300-seat Parliament.

Greek-American banker George Koskotas, the key figure in the scandal, set off the latest barrage of criticism levelled at Papandreou by alleging the Socialist government approved a scheme to embezzle millions of dollars from state companies.

The US State Department has denied that a self-proclaimed CIA agent who alleged that the American agency was behind the scandal, ever worked for the US government.

The purported agent, Tom Mallis, told a parliamentary fact-finding committee last week that Koskotas was a CIA employee trying to destabilise Greece.

Pinochet agrees to limit power of armed forces

SANTIAGO, March 12, (UPI): President Augusto Pinochet said last night he will accept some constitutional reforms limiting the power of the armed forces before he leaves office next year after 16 years of military government.

Pinochet, the 73-year-old general who took power in a 1973 coup, outlined the acceptable reforms, some of which have been demanded by the opposition, in a speech beginning his final year as President.

Pinochet must turn over the presidency on March 11, 1990, to the winner of a December

election. The election is required under the 1980 military-written constitution because Pinochet lost a yes-no vote last year in which he asked citizens to give him another eight-year term.

Interior Minister Carlos Carreras, Pinochet's top domestic policy official, said the government will begin talks with political parties over the reforms next week. He said a package of reforms would be offered to Chileans in a referendum.

"All human works elaborated in a determined historic movement can be perfected in

some aspects," Pinochet told several thousand guests in a government auditorium.

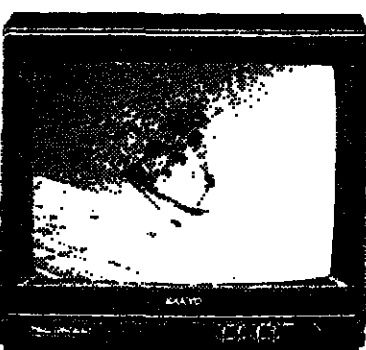
He said the government will accept reforms of a constitutional article that, in effect, outlaws the Communist Party. The changes would "reaffirm that the objective of this precept is not to persecute ideas," he said.

Other acceptable reforms include reducing emergency presidential powers, diluting the membership of the powerful National Security Council now dominated by the military and shortening the eight-year presidential term.

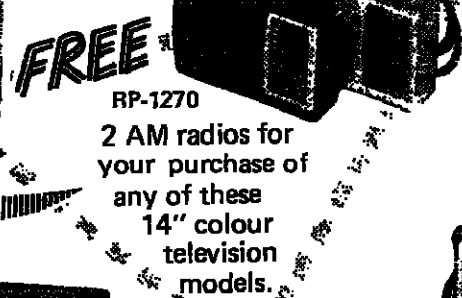
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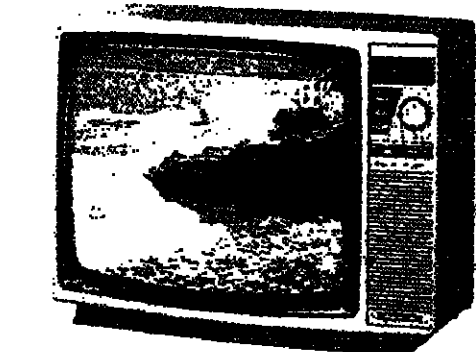
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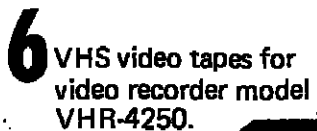
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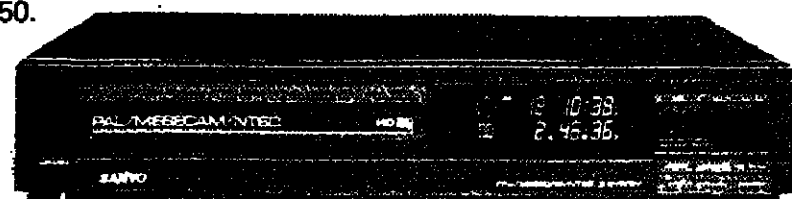
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OIC won't discuss Rushdie affair

NICOSIA, March 12, (Reuters): Muslim states have dropped plans to sue award-winning British novelist Salman Rushdie in Britain over his book *The Satanic Verses*, diplomats said.

Foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) scheduled to meet in Saudi Arabia tomorrow will not include the Rushdie affair on their 59-item agenda after delegates from Iran failed to attend preparatory meetings yesterday, conference sources said.

"There will not be a case because it will not achieve anything. Except for Christianity, British law does not consider insulting religion a crime," an official of the 46-member organisation said without elaborating. Last month the organisation condemned Rushdie for the novel, considered blasphemous and offensive by many Muslims, and announced plans to have the 41-year-old Indian-born author put on trial in Britain.

Iran, which has boycotted the group since last March when its delegation walked out of a foreign ministers meeting in Amman, sent a team to Riyadh but did not attend two meetings which ended yesterday.

Delegates did not know exactly why the Iranians failed to show up but some say because Tehran failed to gain support for spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini's call on Muslims to kill Rushdie.

Khomeini's order outraged Western countries and led to Iran cutting its ties with Britain, where Rushdie first published the book.

Call for boycott
■ Nicosia: Iran's interior minister has called for an economic boycott of Britain following the break in diplomatic relations over the Rushdie affair.

"If we boycott Britain economically we will strike the heaviest blow against this old colonialist country and supporter of infidelity," Ali Akbar Mohtashemi was quoted as saying by the Iranian news agency IRNA, (Reuters)

Ban sought
■ Singapore: The Muslim religious council wants the government to ban *The Satanic Verses*.

The council said in a short statement in the latest issue of its newsletter, *Warita*, that it regarded the novel as "insensitive and abusive to Muslims."

It added: "The book has no place in a multi-racial and multi-religious society like Singapore." More than 76 per cent of the population of 2.6 million people are ethnic Chinese. Malays comprise 15 per cent and Indians six per cent. (AP)

Revolutionary Guards
■ London: A new squad of Iranian Revolutionary Guards was reported to have arrived in Lebanon, amid growing fears that it may be planning reprisal attacks and kidnapping of British subjects as a result of the Rushdie affair, a leading newspaper here claimed today.

Quoting Shiite sources in Beirut, the Sunday Times newspaper said the newly arrived guards are "not answerable to the normal channels" and are not under the control of Iran's parliamentarian Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, whose responsibilities cover the Revolutionary Guards.

The weekly also quoted well-placed sources as saying that the guards who at one time had up to 3,000 men in Lebanon, have been involved in planning abductions of Western citizens in the war-torn country. (KUNA)

Encouragement
■ New York: The New York Times printed words of encouragement today from 28 international writers to Rushdie. The *Satanic Verses* rose to number two on the paper's best-seller list this week.

The newspaper's book review section included encouragement to Rushdie from such writers as Canada's Robertson Davies and Margaret Atwood, Americans Norman Mailer and Thomas Pynchon, and Australia's Thomas Kenneally, among others. (Reuters)

Meanwhile, the rift between London and Tehran has dashed hopes of an early release of the British hostages, the Sunday Times said.

Another British newspaper, the Sunday Telegraph, said that a new Iranian-backed "terrorist squad" was emerging as the key threat to the controversial author Salman Rushdie.

The publication said that Britain's anti-terrorist squad had been given details of the new Iranian-backed group, by the FBI, and will be paying it special attention in attempts to prevent attacks in Britain.

Afghan invasion decision makers identified

Pakistan accused of aiding mujahedeen

MOSCOW, March 12, (AP): The decision to send Soviet troops to Afghanistan was made by just four top officials: President Leonid Brezhnev, Defence Minister Dmitri Ustinov, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Politburo ideologist Michael Suslov, maverick communist Boris Yeltsin said today.

It has long been reported that only a handful of the members of the ruling Politburo were involved in the decision that sent 15,000 Soviet soldiers to their deaths in Afghanistan.

But Yeltsin, a former candidate member of the Politburo

who was demoted from Moscow Communist Party chief after criticising the party leadership, was the first official to name the individuals.

Yeltsin's revelation came in a speech yesterday before 800 people at the Kuntsevo Theatre, where he was campaigning for the new Congress of People's deputies. He did not give his source. But he remains one of the 300-odd members of the Communist Party's policy-making central committee, which likely would be among the first let in on the closely held secret.

Other members of the central committee said last year they did not know who was responsible. But the subject suddenly was opened to discussion in February when the Soviet troops left Afghanistan after nine years of war.

The four Yeltsin identified were all top Kremlin power brokers in 1979 and likely members of a group close-knit and powerful enough to make such a decision.

Charge
Meanwhile, the Kremlin has accused Pakistan-backed forces in Afghanistan of firing on a Soviet border patrol in Soviet Tajikistan.

In a statement carried by the official news agency Tass, the Soviet Union reaffirmed charges that Pakistani forces were fighting alongside rebels opposed to the Soviet-backed Kabul government in many areas of Afghanistan.

"The military activity of armed detachments connected with Pakistan is also directed against Soviet territory," it said.

"A Soviet border patrol was fired upon recently in the area of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic which borders on Afghanistan."

Tass gave no more details of the incident which apparently occurred near a narrow stretch of north-eastern Afghanistan, around 30 km wide, which separates Tajikistan from Pakistan.

The statement appealed to UN General-Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar and to the United States "to take most urgent and effective measures to put an end to foreign intervention in Afghanistan."

The Geneva accords under which the last Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan on Feb 15 were mediated by the United Nations. The United States, like the Soviet Union, is a guarantor.

The statement also stressed the Soviet Union would meet its commitments under Soviet-Afghan treaties to protect the country's sovereignty and independence from what it called undisguised aggression.

In Rome, mujahedeen leader Syed Ahmad Gailani discussed the situation in Afghanistan with former King Zahir Shah yesterday.

General Abdul Wali, Zahir Shah's son-in-law and spokesman, said the meeting was a routine discussion. Many Afghans pass through Rome and visit the king, he added.

"They had the usual discussion, analysing the situation in Afghanistan," Wali said.

Egypt's membership

BAGHDAD, March 12, (KUNA): Iraq, one of the members of Arab Co-operation Council which also includes Egypt, Jordan and Yemen Arab Republic has called for the restoration of Egypt's membership to the council of Arab health ministers. Iraqi News Agency reported. Egypt's membership in the council had been frozen since late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

The agency said the call was contained in a cable addressed by the Iraqi acting Minister of Health Abdel Salam Mohammad Saeed to the current President of Arab Health Ministers' Council, Al Tayyeb Bin Al Sheikh.

UAE merges ministries

ABU DHABI, March 12, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to merge its Justice and Islamic Affairs and Awkaf Ministries, the official news agency WAM reported.

It said the UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan last night accepted the resignation of Justice Minister Abdullah Humaid Al Mazroui and named Islamic Affairs and Awkaf Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hassan Al Khazraji as head of the enlarged ministry.

Arafat in S. Arabia

MANAMA, March 12, (KUNA): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Saudi Arabia after concluding a two-day visit to Bahrain, during which he held talks with senior officials on the latest developments in the Arab arena.

Earlier today, Arafat attended an official ceremony in which the Palestinian flag was hoisted at the Palestinian embassy in Bahrain.

Denktash leaves

ISTANBUL, March 12, (Reuters): Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash left for Finland today to discuss attempts to reunite divided Cyprus.

"I will explain the latest situation on Cyprus," Denktash told the Anatolian news agency before leaving Istanbul. "Many countries have wrong evaluations... because of Greek-Cypriot propaganda."

Denktash will meet Finnish officials and parliamentarians, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Chemical plant

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 12, (Reuters): Israel reacted cautiously today to reports that Egypt, its only Arab peace partner, could be assembling a chemical weapon plant.

Asked about the report, Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Liel said "Israel is concerned about the continued production of chemical weapons in the world and particularly in the Middle East." He declined to mention Egypt specifically.

On Friday, the United States said it was concerned that Egypt was assembling Swiss-made parts for a plant that could be used to make chemical weapons. The Egyptians denied it.

Sex and skeleton

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 12, (AP): Israeli researchers have found a link between sex hormones and the skeletal system of animals, opening the way to a better understanding of a degenerative bone disease in humans, the Weizmann Institute of Science said today.

The findings of a research team led by Professor Alvin Kaye of the institute's Hormone Research Department help to explain the high incidence of the bone disease osteoporosis in women following menopause, a statement from the institute said.

Killing in Iran

NICOSIA, March 12, (AP): The parents of Iran's chief of traffic police were killed by burglars who stole "tens of millions" of rials (several hundred thousand dollars) in cash from their home, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the daily newspaper *Kayhan* as saying Brig. Gen. Reza Nik-Manesh's mother and father were slain on Thursday in their home on Sadeqiyeh Square in northwestern Tehran.

Trial of Nasser's son

CAIRO, March 12, (Reuters): The eldest son of the late Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser transferred Libyan funds to a revolutionary group to finance attacks on Israeli and US diplomats, a State Security Court was told today.

Khaled Abdel Nasser, a 39-year-old engineer now self-exiled in Europe, visited Libya several times, met Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi and channelled unspecified amounts of money to the "Egypt's revolution" group, a key witness said.



Israeli Knesset member Ran Cohen (left) talks with PLO envoy Arafat (right). (Reuters radiophoto)



Nabil Shaath (right) with former US Congresswoman Bella Abzug.

US-PLO dialogue not moving

Two-state solution urged

NEW YORK, March 12, (Reuters): A former Israeli military intelligence chief said his government should accept the creation of a neighbouring Palestinian state and criticised a law which bans contacts with Palestinians.

Yehoshafat Harkabi told an informal conference with Palestinian officials in New York that Israel's law banning contacts was "an infringement on the most basic human rights, to meet and talk."

He said the Israeli government's adherence to a one-state solution "blocks the road to peace."

Last November the Palestine National Council, political arm of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, proclaimed an independent state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and adopted a two-state solution.

At least 400 Palestinians and 16 Israelis have been killed in a 15-month-old Palestinian uprising in the territories.

Dialogue

The three-day conference, sponsored jointly by the Israeli journal *New Outlook* and the Palestine weekly *Al Fajr*, brought together four current and four former members of the Israeli parliament and six members of the council.

Palestinian Nabil Shaath, chairman of the council's political committee, said he was "very

optimistic" about the prospects for peace.

The recently opened dialogue between the United States and the PLO has been without substance and President George Bush should act quickly to move it forward, a PLO official said last night at the peace symposium.

At least twice Washington has threatened to end the talks because of incidents in the Middle East but "the dialogue so far isn't worth using in a blackmail," said Nabil Shaath.

"To date, all our dialogue is without any substance," Shaath said.

One lengthy session and five brief ones in Tunis with US Ambassador Robert Pelletreau have so far consisted of introductory remarks, the reading of a definition of terrorism and outlines of American views on various issues but "no discussion of any peace plan," Shaath said after his speech.

Of Bush, he said, "We have so much expected that he would move further. So far, he has not moved enough."

The New York Times reported today that the Bush administration plans to ask the PLO and Israel to reduce tension in the Israeli-occupied territories. The newspaper said proposals would include asking the PLO to end all violent demonstrations in the territories and asking Israel to end or limit administrative detention of Palestinians.

Jiyyun holds talks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, March 12, (AP): Chinese Deputy Prime Minister Tian Jiyyun held talks today on expanding trade and economic relations with Iraq, diplomatic sources reported.

The sources said Jiyyun also discussed the stalled Gulf war peace negotiations and international issues with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saudoun Hammadi.

Jiyyun, who spent five days in Iran last week, is on a three-day official visit to Iraq.

The official Iraqi News Agency quoted Jiyyun as saying on arrival that his talks aimed at boosting the existing "cordial relations with Iraq in all fields."

Denied

China supplied both Iran and Iraq with weaponry worth billions of dollars during the eight-year Gulf war, according to western defence experts.

Much of the Chinese weaponry reached the two warring nations via North Korea. Iran and Iraq have both denied buying arms from China.

The Gulf war ended on Aug 20 when a UN-sponsored ceasefire went into effect. Both Iran and Iraq are now gearing up for a post-war reconstruction effort to repair their ravaged economies.

China is likely to be a major beneficiary from the reconstruction boom which is expected to cost Iran more than \$400 billion.

Intensive contacts to contain crisis

CAIRO, March 12, (KUNA): Intensive contacts were carried out in the past few days to contain the current political crisis between Egypt and Sudan, a prominent opposition party newspaper said today.

Daily Al Wafd, mouthpiece of Wafd opposition party, said three Arab diplomats recently met with the presidential advisors for Arab affairs during which they expressed their readiness for assisting in this issue.

Jordan opposes a confederation

No talks with Israel: Qassem

ABU DHABI, March 12, (UPI): Jordan's Foreign Minister Marwan Qassem said in remarks published today his country "will not accept" a confederation with the future Palestinian state unless after Israel withdraws from Arab occupied territories.

In an interview with the United Arab Emirates semi-official *Al Itihad* newspaper, Qassem also rejected US and Israeli calls for Jordan to talk on behalf of the Palestinian people under the so-called "Jordanian option."

He said Jordan's decision in July to disengage itself from the Israeli-occupied West Bank meant that the Palestine Liberation Organisation was "the concerned and qualified party to take the Palestinian decision."

Only the US and Israel have opposed the idea and instead have favoured direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours but excluding the PLO.

Qassem said King Hussein of Jordan was still planning to visit Washington sometime in spring, but that a final date was not fixed yet.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir were also expected to make separate trips to the US during the same period for talks with President George Bush.

Libyan protest

NICOSIA, March 12, (Reuters): Libya has condemned complaints that Arab nations were acquiring chemical weapons, saying they had a right to them until a total international ban took effect.

In a commentary, the official Libyan news agency JANA said yesterday Libya supported a binding international ban on the development, production, storage and use of weapons of mass destruction.

"What is not acceptable and we find outside the framework of logic is to have discriminatory measures banning something for someone else while permitting it for yourself," JANA, received in Nicosia, said.

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In January, after its first direct contacts with Morocco's King Hassan, the Polisario declared a

Polisario links ceasefire with political accord

ALGIERS, March 12, (Reuters): The Polisario front said today a ceasefire in its fight with Morocco for independence for western Sahara would form part of a political deal ahead of a UN-sponsored referendum in the former Spanish colony.

Explaining a decision to end a one-month truce, Mahfoud Ali Beiba, Prime Minister of the Polisario's self-declared Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), said: "A truce is one thing. A ceasefire is another. The latter is linked to a political accord which does not yet exist."

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In January, after its first direct contacts with Morocco's King Hassan, the Polisario declared a

truce for February in what it said was a gesture to advance peace efforts.

The Algerian-backed guerrilla group has been angered over the king's refusal to hold a second face-to-face meeting which it says was originally due to take place a few days before a North African summit in mid-February.

Morocco has declined comment on the Polisario statements, saying the dispute is in the hands of the United Nations.

Two UN officials are now in Morocco for talks on organising the referendum, which will be on the basis of a census taken by the Spanish in 1974. They are expected to visit western Sahara next week.

Moroccan troops control four-fifths of the mineral-rich, but barren territory, which was ceded to Morocco by Spain in 1976.

Muslims from the northern Sudan, while most people living in the south are Christian or hold animist religious beliefs.

The United Nations wants to prevent a repeat of 1988, when an estimated 250,000-500,000 people died of starvation, disease or the fighting in the southern Sudan.

Many of those people died in the summer when the rains turned roads into impassable

swamps and made airstrips unusable, isolating them in small towns with inadequate food supplies.

An Ethiopian official said Grant also asked Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to use his influence to try and persuade the Sudanese rebels of the need for the ceasefire.

The rebel Army has its headquarters in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

before the rainy season begins in May and makes transportation far more difficult.

The United Nations has estimated that 100,000 people could die of starvation if the proposed relief operation fails, while other estimates have put that figure as high as 600,000.

The rebel group has been fighting since 1983 for greater autonomy and economic reforms in the southern Sudan. The country's government is controlled by



Marwan Qassem

ADDIS ABABA, March 12, (Agencies): Sudanese rebels and Western officials failed to agree on a ceasefire to allow transportation of food and other emergency supplies to the war-torn southern Sudan, a rebel official said yesterday.

The head of the US office of foreign disasters assistance, Julia Taft, and James Grant, head of the UN children's fund, arrived in Addis Ababa on Friday to ask the Sudan People's Liberation

Army to agree to a one-month ceasefire.

"We discussed with them recent developments in Sudan, but we did not reach any conclusive agreement," said a rebel official, who asked not to be identified.

Relief officials say a one-month halt to the fighting would enable them to transport 165,000 tons of food, medicine and other supplies to the southern Sudan

muslims from the northern Sudan, while most people living in the south are Christian or hold animist religious beliefs.

The United Nations wants to prevent a repeat of 1988, when an estimated 250,000-500,000 people died of starvation, disease or the fighting in the southern Sudan.

Many of those people died in the summer when the rains turned roads into impassable

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Massive hunt for escaped smugglers

By Nasser Al Tameem

KUWAITI security personnel are undertaking a massive hunt for four men described as being members of a dangerous gang of smugglers.

According to security sources, the gang, using cover of the strong sand storms prevailing in the country last Friday attempted to smuggle 300 cases of whiskey through the Abdali borders.

A suicidal attempt temporarily succeeded in their fleeing the border check-post with security personnel hot on their heels.

A speedy chase resulted in the pick-up driven by the smugglers to overturn near the Rawdhat Agricultural Society.

Here again, the "desperados" forcibly evicted a car owner and commandeered his vehicle, driving towards Kuwait City — once again with security personnel in hot pursuit.

In a brazen attempt to avoid capture, the smugglers began a systematic staccato of gunfire on pedestrians and cars. Security forces in a bid to avoid any injuries to civilians slowed down the tempo of the chase — allowing the smugglers to escape.

Top Kuwaiti security personnel are confident that no effort will be spared in apprehending the culprits. Positive results are expected shortly they added, without elaborating.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jannati in Bahrain

KUWAIT, March 12, (KUNA): Chairman of the Iranian Islamic Information Organisation Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati left here early today for Bahrain within the framework of a GCC tour.

He was seen off by Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shabien, the Iranian chargé d'affaires here and a protocol department official.

Learners licences

THE General Traffic Department has decided to return learners licences and foreign licence exchange applications to those from whom the department withdrew them during the past ten years, according to a local daily.

The licence-exchange permit used to be withdrawn after entitling the applicant to three chances, whereas the learners licence expired after one year of its date of issue.

This measure comes in response to a circular issued by the director general of the department Brigadier Fuad Musaed Al Saleh.

Civil defence training

AN official source at the General Civil Defence Department has said that the first batch of volunteers has been divided into five regiments, the first containing 52 members trained in security tactics, the second the technical regiment with 45 members, the third a fire-brigade regiment of 25 members, the fourth is first-aid regiment of 33 members, and the fifth rescue regiment of 25 members.

The source said that female volunteers were divided into three regiments all to be trained in first-aid techniques, the first contains 19 members, the second 12 and the third 21.

The source pointed out that training of the volunteers would continue till March 28.

Traffic accidents

THREE men died and 11 others were injured as a result of traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday. There were 21 traffic accidents in the country during the last 24 hours. Among the main accidents, was the overturning of a car at the 7th ring road in which one man died and three others were injured.

New dairy company

RELEVANT authorities have completed final procedures to establish a government dairy company and owners of cow and sheep farms will contribute to the company, a local daily has reported.

The capital and budget of the company and percentage of shares of public and private sectors will be announced within the next few weeks.

The daily added that there are more than 30 cow farms in Kuwait and most of the milk produced is handed over to the Kuwaiti Dairy Company that offers its services to hospitals and different state departments. The new company aims at organising performance of private farms and offering continuous support to Kuwaiti owners of these farms, the daily said.

Awqaf rejects cremation plea

By Fathima Ahmed

Arab Times staff

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has turned down a plea by the Indian embassy to allow cremation of the dead in the country. The

request was made by the embassy and through the foreign office in New Delhi.

Since cremation was banned by the municipality in the mid-1970s, the Indian embassy has been exerting efforts to seek permission to cremate bodies on

humanitarian grounds, particularly in cases when a family can't bear the cost of repatriating the dead.

Insult

The ministry, rejecting the plea, said the process of cremation "is an insult to human dig-

nity and must not be permitted in Kuwait."

An official of the Department of Funerals, in an earlier interview with the Arab Times, airing similar views, said cremation is not permissible under Muslim law. He said his department gives all possible assistance

to those families who want to send the dead bodies to India.

Indian Foreign Ministry officials recently discussed the issue of cremation during their talks with Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammad Al Osaimi, who visited India last month.

Anti-AIDS campaign

WHO experts here

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff

KUWAIT'S women, students, policemen, expatriate workers and nurses have expressed deep fear of AIDS and urged the authorities to release more information on the killer disease.

"We want to know everything," they said when quizzed by a group of WHO (World Health Organisation) experts who are currently conducting a five-day workshop in Kuwait to hammer out a health education campaign against AIDS.

Target

Coming from the organisation's Geneva headquarters, the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) in Alexandria, and the region's 12 Arab countries, these experts aim to produce by the end of the workshop on Wednesday a set of clear-cut messages to be displayed on posters, pamphlets and in audio-visual presentations.

They chose as their sample secondary school and university students, teachers, mothers, nurses, hotel employees, migrant workers, mass media, policemen and religious groups. About 10 representatives from each of these groups were questioned about their attitude towards the disease, level of information on AIDS and health related habits.

Based on the resulting answers, preliminary messages will be formulated, which will then be tested on the same groups before they are finally adopted. The experts will also identify major groups at which messages will be targeted.

The WHO representatives were impressed by the frank and enthusiastic response they got from those quizzed.

Concern

"They are scared and concerned, but they are also reasonably well-informed about the medical side of the disease, and they all agreed that they want to know more," said Dr Hind Abou Seoud Khattab of the EMRO.

She said women in particular were eager to learn more about AIDS.

"They know that men are more exposed to the danger of contracting the disease, and they want something to be done about it," said Khattab. She said women called for a return to the teachings of Islam as a most effective preventive measure against AIDS. They also expressed determination to seek a divorce if they found that their husbands had the disease, she said.

Fears

It is not yet clear what the educational messages will contain, but one thing is certain: the word condom will not figure in any of them. A message urging men to use condoms would go against the traditional and religious beliefs in the region, said Khattab. But she stressed that such messages are available from WHO, and that the countries of the region are free to use them.

She said that some of the messages will try to dispel fears that AIDS can be contracted through a handshake or by sharing an office with an AIDS carrier.

KD800m budget deficit

Rationalise spending: Khorafi

KUWAIT, March 12, (KUNA): Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi has predicted that the actual deficit in the state budget would hit the KD800 million mark during this fiscal year nearing last year's figure, which was due to the cuts in spending.

Maximum limit

In a statement to a local daily Khorafi noted that the Amiri Decree, to be published today in the official Gazette of Kuwait Al Youm, stipulates upping the maximum limit of the authorised general loan for the government to KD3 billion to

cover the borrowing needs of last and current years and possibilities of next year.

The minister affirmed that there is still potential areas for rationalisation and there are many methods to utilise available resources and preserving assets and public properties. The door is still open to discuss the possibility of boosting revenues, he underlined.

He expressed confidence in Kuwaiti values and the co-operation between citizens and government institutions to realize the desired goals.

Tax time for US nationals and aliens

By Diane Diaz

Arab Times Staff

AMERICAN expatriates with questions about their US income taxes can get the answers from an Internal Revenue Service official who will visit Kuwait at the end of this month.

IRS representative Jon Wilcock will be available to answer questions from March 28 through April 2 at the American Embassy.

Wilcock will conduct four tax seminars, in addition to holding one-on-one sessions with interested US citizens and resident aliens.

A number of changes have been implemented in the US tax law in 1988. Among the most notable, rate reductions.

There are now two basic tax brackets—15 per cent and 28 per cent. The tax tables and the tax-rate schedules supplied by the IRS have the reduced rates built in.

Deductions

Another change is in the amount that can be deducted for each exemption. A person is now entitled to deduct \$1,950 for each exemption, up from \$1,900 in 1987. Exemptions are allowed for the individual, the spouse and each dependent.

The standard deduction has also been changed. For a single person, the deduction has been raised to \$3,000, up from \$2,540 in 1987.

For married couples who file a joint return, the deduction has increased from \$3,760 to \$5,000. Married person who file separate returns will receive a \$2,500 standard deduction, up from \$1,880 last year.

The head of household qualifies for a \$4,400 deduction, up from \$2,540.

The US tax filing deadline is April 15. Resident aliens—green card holders—are subject to the same filing schedule as US citizens.

Keep your car

New alarm

MUSCAT, March 12, (GNA): An Omani youth has invented a new anti-theft device for cars, different from those already on the market. The device consists of a silent alarm system which transmits messages directly to the owner without actually emitting any sound.

The young inventor picked up the idea for the device from a children's toy. He removed the transmitter from the toy and doubled its transmitting power.

The new device is made up of two parts, one inside the car and the other at the owner's house.



Well known Kuwaiti actor Abu Diyab contributes in his own way to the water and energy conservation campaign. His umbrella hat suggests the torrents of water wasted in Kuwait by careless users.

Agreement reached on water supply from Iraq

BAGHDAD, March 12, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Electricity and Water Minister Dr Hmoud Rqobah announced tonight that agreement has been reached for Iraq to supply Kuwait with 350 million gallons daily of fresh water for domestic utilisation.

The minister told KUNA that the ceiling of water supply could reach 700 million gallons daily under this first stage of the agreement.

Rqobah who was talking following conclusion of the first round of talks with Iraqi officials, added that the agreement also provides for the supply of 200 million gallons daily of irrigation water with a ceiling of 500 million gallons.

The Kuwaiti officials pointed out that the agreement comes in continuation of the talks held during the official visit to Iraq in February by HH the Crown

Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Rqobah indicated that this agreement is the first stage, adding that today's meeting with the Iraqi Home Rule Minister examined the possibility of Iraqi participation in transporting Iraqi waters to Kuwait.

He went on to add that they agreed on the exchange of power between the two countries at a

daily maximum of 1,500 megawatts.

The minister said the talks also covered the launch of a joint fresh water scheme through which water would be supplied to Kuwait.

Rqobah added that the agreement will be executed very soon, and indicated that technical committees will discuss technicalities and legal issues on implementation of the project.

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National-Panasonic-Technics

Kuwaiti expert presents paper on oil well leaks

OIL reservoirs in major oil producing countries world-wide have in recent years been faced with environmental conditions affecting drilling wells, consequently leading to frequent corrosion and leaks in well casing.

A solution has been found with great success for similar problems prevalent in Kuwait's 'neutral-zone' Wafra field's oil reservoirs, according to a leading oil engineer based in Kuwait.

Speaking at a technical conference session of the 6th Middle East Oil Show, J.A. Bazzari of Getty Oil/Kuwait Oil Company, said the problems of leaks corrosion in drilling wells in the four oil reservoirs in Wafra field have been greatly alleviated through the successful application of the C.P. system.

He said well casing leaks were first discovered in Wafra in 1962 and increased over the years. Out of the total of 492 wells which were drilled in the four reservoirs since the field became operational in the early 50s, one-third were found to have corrosion and leaking problems.

Presenting a paper entitled "Well Casing Leaks History and Corrosion Monitoring Study — Wafra Field," the oil expert forecast that in 15 years oil wells in Wafra will eventually develop leaks.

According to Bazzari, the C.P. system operates through 'impressed current', utilizing deep hole beds. Although there is rise in the water level, the slow movement of water considerably helps the system to work.

So far four pilot C.P. systems have been introduced in the Wafra field, he added.

The Wafra field comprises 6.5 square miles. Discovered in 1953, the development of the reservoirs was completed in 1963.

Shipping companies respond

Lankan Muslims to perform Haj at half cost

COLOMBO, March 12, (KUNA): A number of international shipping lines have responded to a call by a Sri Lankan Muslim minister to carry believers at low prices to Makkah, officials at the Shipping Ministry told KUNA today.

They said the call by Trade and Shipping Minister, Abdul Razak Mansoor has had "unprecedented response" by shipping companies to help Muslims from Sri Lanka make the sacred trip at less than half cost.

Special charter

All offers were being processed by the government owned Ceylon Shipping Corporation which has been instructed by Mansoor to handle the special charter, officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said.

The corporation has no passenger liner of its own and Mansoor given the shipping portfolio only last month moved fast to get as many Muslims to make the Haj pilgrimage at the cheapest possible fare.

The new move will help poorer Muslims to make

the pilgrimage — the greatest wish of every single Muslim, the officials said.

Local airlines charge the rupee equivalent of \$580 for a two way air-ticket between Colombo and Jeddah. Additional charges are imposed for food, transport and accommodation, a princely investment by Sri Lankan standards making it possible for only the richer Muslim to go on the sacred pilgrimage.

Negotiate

Shipping Ministry officials said Mansoor will personally negotiate with the shipping lines the cost of the two way trip and plans to ensure a larger contingent of Muslims will participate in the holy Haj.

Sri Lanka is largely a Sinhalese Buddhist country. More than 1.2 million of the country's total population of 16 million are Muslims.

Sinhalese dominated governments have always encouraged Muslims to make the Haj pilgrimage but this is the first time a Muslim minister is making it possible for less fortunate believers to make the pilgrimage.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

TO like and dislike the same things, that is indeed true friendship — Sallust, Roman Scholar (83 B.C. — 34 B.C.)

Tibet in tears

Activists disorganised

By Guy Dinmore

BEIJING, (Reuters): Many Tibetan nationalists who fought Chinese police with heavy losses a week ago were disorganised and disaffected urban youths brought up in ghetto-like conditions hating Chinese officials.

In the aftermath of three-days of fierce anti-Chinese rioting last week, Peking has said the Tibetans were armed and organised by "separatist cliques" abroad.

But Tibetan monks and lay people deny this, saying the central government needed a pretext to impose martial law and extinguish pro-independence spirit.

"We have no leaders. All the people are leaders," said a young activist, speaking in a Buddhist temple during a lull in rioting in the regional capital of Lhasa last week.

"We don't have guns. We don't want them," said a young monk. Some foreign witnesses said last week some separatists had firearms but did not use them.

Religious fanatics

Western witnesses to the fighting in Lhasa's Tibetan quarter, including this correspondent, said many of the stone-throwing were young brought up on a diet of religious fanaticism, poverty and hatred for the Han Chinese.

Most of the rioting and pro-independence marches over the last 18 months have been confined to one main street running through a maze of alleys and the Jokhang Temple, the ancient heart of Tibetan Buddhism.

Perhaps 20,000 Tibetans live in the area, measuring about one square kilometre, a close-knit community which feeds on rumours and a folklore of resistance to the Chinese.

Many Tibetans are convinced, for example, that the recently deceased Panchen Lama — a widely revered spiritual leader who was also a Chinese government official — was poisoned by the Chinese.

Peking says he died of natural causes after over-exercising himself during religious ceremonies last Jan 28.

Suspicion and fear pervade the streets and temples as some Tibetans, even monks, work as informers to the police.

"Tibet will never be independent. Tibet has been part of China since the 13th century," a police official, an ethnic Tibetan, told this correspondent last Tuesday night during an interrogation on that preceded expulsion from Tibet.

"What do you think?" he asked as truckloads of riot police swept by the door to enforce martial law imposed on Lhasa.

One answer was perhaps provided a day later by a young Tibetan, his body scarred from beatings he said were received in prison, who vowed he would never give up their struggle.

A diplomat in Peking commented that the dead had become martyrs. "Martial law will not resolve this. It's becoming a cycle of violence, oppression and more violence."

China says 11 Tibetans and five policemen died in the clashes. Doctors put the death toll at about 30 but many Tibetans are convinced that many more were killed.

Although some of last week's demonstrators were old men and women, most were far too young to remember the 1959 uprising which was quickly crushed by Chinese troops, forcing Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to flee to India.

Some, like the child beggars who live off money given by pilgrims flocking to Lhasa, are even too young to remember the cultural revolution of the late 1960s, when religion — Tibet's life-blood, was extinguished under a wave of oppression.

Peking readily admits the mistakes of its past policies in Tibet. From 1980 it began to open the poverty-stricken Himalayan region of two million people to the outside world, reopening ancient trading routes and letting in foreigners.

Living standards improved. The Tibetan language is used again — in some classes — in schools and universities.

Signs using Tibetan script as well as Chinese characters have reappeared. Monasteries and convents have reopened — with limits imposed on the number of monks and nuns.

Along with the tourists are Tibetans returning from exile and ethnic Tibetans from Nepal and India bringing news from the Dalai Lama and the more radical Tibetan youth congress in northern India.

Less welcome to the people of Lhasa are the thousands of private Han Chinese traders who have poured in from neighbouring provinces over the last year.

"They eat our food. Prices have gone up. They take our jobs," complained one Tibetan who also admitted they provided useful services.

Unification dream

Several Han Chinese were badly beaten and stoned by rioting Tibetans last week. Nationalists say that martial law — however long it is imposed — will do nothing to ease ethnic tensions.

Tibetans contacted by telephone in Lhasa yesterday said there were many troops in the streets. Shops outside the riot-torn Tibetan quarter were reopening. Hotels had been emptied of foreigners who were ordered to leave last week.

The dream of a rich, powerful and united China has gripped emperors and communists alike, but separatist violence in Tibet reminded Beijing the country's map is not carved in stone.

"A fragmented China means weakness and vulnerability to predatory foreign powers. That is the lesson of history," a Western diplomat said.

The dream takes precedence over economics. The most conspicuous example is Tibet, into which Beijing has poured millions of dollars since its Army took over the region in 1950.

The returns have been slight — illiteracy remains high, there is little industry and much of the population remains opposed to Chinese rule.

"Peking takes a long-term view," said a Chinese academic. "Giving up Tibet would mean economic sense but would invite a foreign power to interfere. It would also set a precedent for other regions. No Chinese leader dares take such a step."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1552 — France's King Henry II invades Lorraine; Turks invade Hungary.

1567 — Margaret of Parma, regent of the Netherlands, uses German mercenaries to annihilate 2,000 Calvinists.

1707 — Holy Roman Empire agrees to convention of Milan whereby French troops are to leave northern Italy.

1714 — Battle of Storkyro leads to Russian domination of Finland.

1821 — Victor Emmanuel of Piedmont abdicates and proclaims his brother, Charles Felix, as successor.

1881 — Russia's Tsar Alexander II is assassinated, and succeeded by Alexander III.

1900 — British forces under Frederick Roberts capture Bloemfontein, South Africa.

1938 — Austria is declared part of German Reich.

1942 — British bombers stage saturation raid on Germany city of Cologne in World War II.

1957 — Anglo-Jordan treaty of 1948 expires.

1967 — Peasant rioting is reported in China.

1971 — Quebec separatist Paul Rose is given life sentence in Montreal, Canada, for his part in kidnapping and murder of Quebec Labour Minister Pierre Laporte.

1978 — South Moluccan gunmen seize more than 70 hostages in government building in Essen, the Netherlands, and demand release of comrades in Dutch jails.

1988 — Pakistan's tough stance at slow-moving Afghan peace talks triggers apparent power struggle among resistance guerrilla leaders.

Basra rising from ruins of war

Shell-hit schools will be preserved to remind about the horrors

By Maamoun Youssef

BASRA, Iraq, (Reuters): Iraq's southern port of Basra, devastated by shelling during the Gulf war, plans to preserve the ruins of some schools and mosques to remind coming generations of the horrors of war.

The country's second largest city, Basra was in the front line during Iraq's eight-year conflict with Iran.

A UN-sponsored truce last August halted the fighting in which hundreds of the city's one million residents died. Even before the guns fell silent, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein allocated 1.5 billion dinars (\$5 billion) for reconstruction.

"We have an unlimited budget," Basra Governor Anwar Saeed Al Hadithi told correspondents. "Every state establishment will spend as much as required under the reconstruction plan to turn the city into the pearl of the Gulf."

Gulf.

Hussein ordered Iraq's 17 other governorates to assist. Thousands of labourers with heavy equipment are at work, with the first phase of renovation due for completion in May.

Basra port authorities have also started to clear war debris from the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which remains a major point of dispute in efforts to achieve a lasting peace with Iran.

Baghdad wants the river cleared and dredged immediately, while Iran is demanding that all Iraqi troops must first leave its territory.

Hadithi said Basra's water, electricity and telephone networks should return to normal and most city streets should be repaved by May. Dredgers are also clearing six major water channels in the city.

Hussein ordered that all the old mud houses in the city should be replaced by modern ones.

Hadithi said the owners of each of the 3,000 mud homes so far demolished received a free plot of land, a gift from the President of 3,000 dinars (\$10,000) and a loan of 7,000 dinars (about \$21,000).

As the rebuilding of the city progresses, workers are planting new trees along a boulevard close to the Shatt Al Arab, the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers leading to the Gulf.

In the waterway itself, giant cranes, tugs and dredgers are operating to clear the port and the stretch of river under Iraqi control.

Nearly 80 vessels ranging from old sailing dhows to ocean-going cargo ships were trapped in the Shatt Al Arab by the war, many of the vessels submerged, rusting hulks. Port officials said they had so far raised three Indian cargo ships and two dhows.

Plight of Sudanese

Thousands escaping starvation

By Dallah Baligh

MUGLAD, Sudan, (AP): Atan Maywin stood under the harsh sun in front of her makeshift hut on Saturday, describing how her six children had died from starvation and disease as they fled fighting from the civil war in the south.

Maywin arrived in this town on the border with the war-torn southern regions of Bahr Al Ghazal and Upper Nile two days ago, one of between 200 to 300 new arrivals daily who seek safety, shelter and food.

It is the hundreds of thousands of southerners like Maywin who are being targeted by an ambitious international relief programme under United Nations auspices. It aims to move 170,000 tons of food and supplies to 2.25 million people in the south before the rainy season starts in May, making roads and airstrips unusable.

Last year, between a quarter of a million and half a million southerners died from starvation or while fleeing the war, most of them when they found themselves isolated in villages with inadequate food supplies.

Muglad, 460 miles (740 kilometres) southwest of Khartoum, was one of many sites of disaster last summer when the rains came.

Mark Cunningham of the Irish-based Concern relief organisation, which operates in Muglad, said between 1,000 to 2,000 people out of 6,000 died there last summer, more than half of them children.

Today, in addition to the town's 20,000 local inhabitants, there are around 12,000 displaced people, with an additional 10,000 expected before the rainy season.

The international relief operation wants to use planes, trains, trucks and barges to distribute supplies to hundreds of locations in government- and rebel-held areas in the south, as well as the so-called transitional areas on the border with the south like Muglad.

They have asked for a one-month ceasefire so that they will be able to move the large amount of food in a short time.

The government has accepted the concept. James Grant, executive director of UNICEF, who returned to Khartoum Saturday night after a day of talks with rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, said that SPLA second-in-command Gen. Lon Akol asked for time to study the proposed plan.

Grant said UN officials were optimistic and were going ahead with their plans on the assumption the SPLA would grant some sort of approval.

"The SPLA took a strong position that there was a need for food and that they would work to get it to their people," Grant told foreign reporters after he returned and briefed Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi on his talks with the rebels.

Earlier in Muglad, Cunningham repeated concerns by other Western relief organisations that it would not be possible to transport all the food and supplies without safe conduct from the rebels for most of the operations. The rebels have been attacking relief and civilian convoys and flights after accusing the Army of using them to ferry Army supplies.

Muglad is a mainly Arab Muslim town. The displaced are Christians and animists with different African cultures. The rebels want more autonomy from the Muslim majority, as well as a greater share in the country's economic wealth.

The first displaced people were welcomed when they arrived in Muglad, a dusty little town of small, conical "tukuls" or huts of bamboo with small green patches around them.

As the numbers grew, they built a camp on the outskirts of the town made of stick huts covered with plastic sheets. They are almost totally dependent on food and water distributed by Concern, and only a few have found jobs.

"The locals received their brothers when they were in bad condition. But when they became well, they compete for jobs. So yes, there is friction between them," said Abdel Rasoul Nour, governor of Darfour region.

Nour told a group of foreign journalists that last year 300,000 displaced southerners out of two million throughout the country and in Ethiopia had settled in eight camps in Darfour and stayed. He said that unless the UN-organised operation starts soon, an additional 200,000 could be expected before the rainy season starts.

Concern says that there are 3,500 tons of food in Muglad, and 5,000 tons more are needed to feed the camp during the rainy season, as well as supply displaced people in other nearby areas. The food comes by truck from Port Sudan, the main port on the Red Sea, to Muglad, a 10-day drive.

A California-based relief organisation, Air-Serv, ferries goods and supplies from Muglad to Awail, in Bahr Al Ghazal region, about a 55-minute flight. Up to 10,000 died in Awail last summer.

Grant said 2.25 million southerners needed assistance this year and 100,000 could die of hunger unless help reached them.



A Sudanese woman from Wau sits with her baby and other children in a refugee camp among thousands of other southern Sudanese, who have fled to Khartoum to escape war and famine. (Reuters wirephoto)

US waits for Israeli ideas

By Carol Giacomo

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The United States is looking to Israel to begin discussing new ideas to end the Arab-Israeli conflict during Foreign Minister Moshe Arens' visit to Washington, US officials say. Arens arrived yesterday.

The visit, including talks with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker today, is the first high-level contact between Israel and the new US administration, which took office in January.

It coincides with new dynamics in the Middle East that have spawned optimism among some US officials and private analysts that there is an unusual opportunity for movement towards peace.

A State Department Middle East expert said there is no US pressure on Israel to produce a detailed plan for peace in the occupied territories where a Palestinian uprising began 15 months ago.

But he said: "We would like them to think up some ideas, that are new, serious, creative, can challenge the Palestinians (and can) show that Israel is a leader in a movement for peace."

He said US officials believe Israel is seriously looking at the problem.

Israeli security sources in occupied Jerusalem said at the weekend that as part of measures designed to appease Washington, Israel was likely to reopen schools in the occupied West Bank soon and to release some Palestinian prisoners.

The New York Times yesterday quoted an unnamed White House official as saying the Bush administration was also appealing to Israeli leaders to consider easing economic restrictions on Palestinians who have not paid taxes since the uprising started, and to end or limit administrative detentions of Palestinians.

Arens' visit precedes one by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, expected in early April. "What Arens has in mind is an exchange of views with the new administration," an Israeli diplomat said. "If and when new ideas come up, it will be when the prime minister gets here."

"(Arens will) come with an open mind (but) it's the first visit, so we should be realistic," the diplomat said.

He "will try to reach an understanding with the US government, try to explore common ground and if possible to get co-ordination of position."

The uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has greatly intensified international pressure on both sides to move towards peace.

But Israel is widely viewed as more resistant. The PLO has recently shown what some US analysts judge to be serious interest in negotiating peace with Israel directly.

By meeting US conditions to renounce terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist, the PLO forced Washington to resume a dialogue after a 13-year hiatus.

Raid by PLO factions against Israel have caused a strain in that dialogue, but Baker insists on keeping it going, despite Israeli pressure to end it.

Even Say's supporters, such as Anis Zickl, acknowledge that her comments were difficult for some people to accept.

"She's a strong, strong woman, and this is a traditional community," Mrs Zickl said in an interview.

Some questioned whether negative attention generated by Say's comments served the captors' purposes.

Say acknowledges that the situation became politicised, but she insists she had no other option but to speak out.

Former hostages have told Say that Anderson's captors would kill him if they thought Americans had forgotten him.

"My path is clear," she said in a recent interview from her home in Cadiz, Kentucky. "We've got to keep the pressure on because that's what has kept Terry alive."

Her supporters say attitudes are changing.

"You don't hear real criticism of her anymore," said Terry Fritts, the host of a talk show on local radio station WFLA. "I think people understand better what she was trying to do now."

Mood in hometown

Batavia torn by hostage ordeal

By Darren Dopp

BATAVIA, New York, (AP): The Rev David Scheider is having a difficult time practising what he preaches when it comes to Middle East hostage Terry Anderson.

Scheider has been urging residents of Anderson's hometown in upstate New York not to despair over the journalist's nearly four years of captivity in Beirut, Lebanon.

"We Americans are an action-oriented people. It's so difficult for us to sit back and just pray," he said.

Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, was kidnapped March 16, 1985, in Beirut and has been captive the longest of at least 15 foreign hostages thought held in Lebanon. A Shiite Muslim group, the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad, claims to hold him.

Residents of Batavia will gather this week to observe the anniversary of Anderson's abduction. His sister, Peggy Say was expected to return for the occasion.

Regret

"There isn't a person in town who doesn't know who Terry is and who doesn't regret what's happened to him," said Steven Hawley, a high school classmate of Anderson, a 1963 graduate of Batavia High School.

Batavia, a city of 17,000 located 35 miles (55 km) east of Buffalo, has shown its concern. To mark the third anniversary of Anderson's capture, hundreds of residents marched in a candlelight vigil. And people turned out by the thousands to sign greeting cards that were sent to Beirut for his 41st birthday last October.

However, the events masked deep anxiety within the community over what to do about the hostages.

Many people support Say, who has travelled throughout the world, urging national leaders to work for her brother's release.

However, her outspokenness, including complaints that American officials have not done enough for the hostages, has put off some members of the community.

Batavia is a conservative town built around a war veterans administration hospital with a sign that reads "The price of freedom is visible here."

Some people even considered Say unpatriotic for criticising the administration of former President Ronald Reagan, said Hawley, a county Republican legislator.

Even Say's supporters, such as Anis Zickl, acknowledge that her comments were difficult for some people to accept.

"She's a strong, strong woman, and this is a traditional community," Mrs Zickl said in an interview.

Some questioned whether negative attention generated by Say's comments served the captors' purposes.

Say acknowledges that the situation became politicised, but she insists she had no other option but to speak out.

Kill

Former hostages have told Say that Anderson's captors would kill him if they thought Americans had forgotten him.

"My path is clear," she said in a recent interview from her home in Cadiz, Kentucky. "We've got to keep the pressure on because that's what has kept Terry alive."

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Benazir approaches showdown with Sharif

By Oliver Wales

ISLAMABAD, (Reuters): After 100 days as Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto is fast approaching a showdown with her political foes.

Her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is widely expected to try this week to unseat the Chief Minister of Punjab, Nawaz Sharif, main surviving protégé of the late military President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

The Punjab provincial assembly has been recalled and PPP leaders expect a no-confidence motion to succeed, with support from dissidents in Sharif's Islamic Democratic Alliance.

The alliance countered by recalling the National Assembly in Islamabad and threatens a no-confidence motion against Benazir, the first woman prime minister of a Muslim nation.

The battle for Punjab, the dominant province with 55 per cent of the population, has soured the atmosphere after last year's widely-baited transition from military to civilian rule.

The struggle threatens to spoil the broadly successful image of Benazir's first three months in power.

Political analysts and diplomats give the 35-year-old prime minister high marks, though a lower rating to the rest of her cabinet.

Newspaper commentators and foreign diplomats say the ferocity of the struggle is distracting ministers from tackling Pakistan's economic plight and could even threaten democracy.

"Rather than consolidating its position at the centre and setting its priorities for the country's future, the PPP may be embarked on a course whose consequence it may not eventually be able to control," commentator Mushahid Hussain wrote today. "The roots of democracy are not so strong."

Many in the establishment viewed the PPP with fear and suspicion, remembering the lack of tolerance of political opposition of the PPP government led by Benazir's father Zulfikar Bhutto in the 1970s, he said.

Sharif's supporters accuse the PPP of seeking to impose its rule undemocratically at every level of government. Former Industry Minister Shujaat Hussain said Benazir was pursuing the politics of revenge.

Sharif, 38, a millionaire businessman, was a key aide of Zia for much of the general's 11 years in power.

After Zia's death in an unexplained plane crash last August, he played an important role in putting together the anti-PPP alliance.

November's elections gave no clear result. The PPP became easily the largest party at federal level and governs with the support of independents in the National Assembly.

In elections for the four provincial assemblies three days later the alliance reversed the result in Punjab, giving Sharif his power-base and the powerful job of chief minister.

But tensions grew in the alliance. Its main faction, the Muslim League, resented the prominent role of the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami, which had been close to Zia.

Benazir loathed Zia, who overthrew her father and presided over his execution. Taking oath as Prime Minister on Dec 2, 1988, she swore any vengeance on his surviving aides. But she has yet to be reconciled with Sharif.

The campaign to unseat him has, however, been led more by senior PPP ministers and party leaders from Punjab than by the prime minister herself, political analysts say.

Benazir has carried out her prime minister's role

with dignity. She visited China and Saudi Arabia, met President Bush in Tokyo, and played host to other government leaders.

"She has impressed the top bureaucrats, many of whom were very sceptical, with her grasp of issues," one Western ambassador commented.

Television viewers last Thursday saw Benazir presenting the sword and banner of honour at the annual passing out parade of the prestigious Kakul Military Academy, a sight which would have been quite unimaginable only seven months before.

The PPP government has released political prisoners, given the media greater freedom and restored banned unions. But there have been no other striking achievements.

Foreign policy has been unchanged under (Zia's) Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the vital question of Afghanistan seems to have been largely left to the military.

Benazir has taken no notable initiative to deal with Pakistan's economic problems — she has not even appointed a finance minister. The previous government's budget, approved by the International Monetary Fund, was endorsed to cover the current financial year.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Debt relief plan a step in the right direction

Policy switch lauded

WASHINGTON, March 12. (AP) The US government's proposal aimed at dampening Latin America's debt crisis is getting generally good reviews, despite some reservations that it may not go far enough to quell the region's explosive social unrest.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, spurred on in part by the Venezuelan riots that claimed 300 lives two weeks ago, announced on Friday that the US government was switching gears and looking favourably for the first time on forgiving some of the Third World's crushing \$1.3-trillion debt.

The new plan turns away from the policy under former President Ronald Reagan of piling new debt on top of the old. It is directed primarily at Latin America's most heavily indebted nations, such as Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil, which have accumulated some \$410 billion in loans.

Lauded Charles Schumer, a key member of the House Banking Committee and a specialist on international finance, lauded the shift.

"It is clear that the administration has finally kicked the habit. New money will no longer be used to bail out the bad," Schumer said after the Brady speech.

But Schumer said, as did others, that Brady's proposal lacked detail and did not define how extensive the debt relief might be. He noted that the proposal calls for voluntary action on the part of the lending banks.

"Two looming questions remain — how much relief can actually be provided on a voluntary basis, and how carefully will that relief be channelled to the actually rising living standards in Third World countries," the Congressman said.

Demands In their attempts to meet the demands for economic reform from their creditors, Latin American nations have cut wages and government subsidies, resulting in sharply reduced living standards amidst stalled economic growth.

The result, a rising tide of political and economic instability in those key Latin nations, has become the focus of increasing concern to members of Congress and the administration of President George Bush, as well as the international banks that have extended the billions in



Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady addresses a conference on debt on Friday sponsored by the Bretton Woods Committee and the Brookings Institution. (Reuters wirephoto)

In order to encourage the commercial banks to look more favourably on debt forgiveness, the administration also called on the two major international lending institutions — the World Bank and its sister organisation the International Monetary Fund — to provide a number of hedges against debts that go bad.

James D. Robinson, chairman of American Express Co. and the author of his own debt relief plan which he put forward in 1988, said after Brady's address: "The good news is that the momentum is getting underway... the financing techniques are within reach. The question is whether the political will is there."

Robinson cautioned that the administration must keep the momentum moving and make the plan a top priority when the IMF and World Bank meet in Washington at the end of the month. And it must be pursued at the annual economic summit of the world's leading democracies in Paris in July, he added.

"This is no longer a banking problem, it means jobs and international security," Robinson warned.

In Mexico, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari hailed the proposal as "a first and positive response to Mexico's position" and he sent his Treasury Secretary, Pedro Aspe, to Washington for talks with US

officials. Mexico, which is attempting to restructure payments on its \$107-billion-dollar debt, is seen by several debt experts as the most promising candidate for the new approach.

Meanwhile seven Latin American foreign ministers proposed yesterday that a world agency, funded mainly by industrialised nations, buy back some of the region's \$420-billion debt at discount rates.

Debtor countries would benefit from the discounts offered by secondary markets and would repay the agency — which could be the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund — without neglecting their economic growth, the proposal said.

The plan was issued by the foreign ministers of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela.

Money to pay for the debt buy-back would be provided by industrialised nations, with a small portion coming from debtor countries.

The ministers, known as the Group of Seven, met in this Venezuelan southeastern city only a few hours after Brady announced a new plan to solve the Third World's debt crisis.

The Brady plan, which would mean a 30 per cent reduction in the region's foreign debt, was received in Latin America as a step in the right direction.

(See also Page 8)

Eastern to resume 40 round-trip flights

MIAMI, March 12. (AP) After being all but shut down at the beginning of the week-old strike, Eastern was preparing to resume 40 round-trip flights today and tomorrow, including service to 13 Latin American cities from Miami, said company officials.

Labour rallies yesterday boosted the spirits of striking Eastern Airlines workers, while the struggling carrier worked to restore routes and attract customers by near 90-per cent price cuts for some flights.

Aircraft were again reported flying near capacity yesterday on the second day of \$12 fares on the northeast shuttle linking New York with Washington and Boston, once Eastern's most profitable

service. The pre-strike fare was \$99.

"This (\$12 fare) has just created a tremendous groundswell of interest in travelling between the cities," said Eastern spokesman Robin Matell.

Joe Scott, an Eastern spokesman in New York, said the shuttle remained popular yesterday, but ticket lines at La Guardia airport were not as long as they were on Friday.

Many flights were crowded with college students heading home for spring break. Because the hourly shuttle works on a first-come, first-served basis, many passengers waited for hours before getting on a flight. Matell suggested the solidarity

of pilots honouring machinists union picket lines might be cracking. "We have more than 200 pilots now, and yesterday we had inquiries from about 300 pilots inquiring about procedures for returning to work," he said.

But Air Line Pilots Association spokesman Jim Bost, an Eastern pilot for four years, discounted that report, saying: "So far they are still hanging tight with us. As far as we can tell the line is still holding solid."

Machinists leader Frank Ortiz said the pickets' resolve was unwavering, despite urgings from Eastern to return to work. Picketing continued at airports in Miami, New York,

Washington and other cities.

At Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson joined machinists, pilots and flight attendants on picket lines for about 10 minutes, donning pilot's caps, shaking hands and kissing babies. About 1,000 people attended a related rally.

Gestures Ed Weiss, an Eastern pilot for 10 years, was among about 200 people who linked hands along the main service road at the Greater Buffalo airport in New York state, in a gesture of labour unity.

"We're out to show the public that we are firm and standing strong, and we will prevail,"

Weiss said.

The American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organisations announced yesterday in Washington the establishment of a relief fund to help union members at Eastern and said it reached \$250,000 almost immediately. It started with an AFL-CIO contribution of \$100,000, and the rest was donated by labour unions and groups.

The airline sought protection from creditors under a section of the US Bankruptcy Act on Thursday, five days after mechanics and other ground workers walked off the job to enforce wide-ranging wage and benefit demands.

Scheme to defraud banks Nigerian arrested in Portland

PORTLAND, Oregon, March 12. (UPI) The Federal Bureau of Investigation has arrested a Nigerian man suspected in an alleged scheme to defraud banks through applications for phony credit cards, including one using the picture of movie star Tom Cruise.

FBI agent Dave Miller said Solon B. Onibis, in his late 20s, was charged with mail fraud, bank and credit card fraud and embezzlement after he was caught applying for 57 credit cards. Onibis is being held in the Portland Justice Centre.

Miller said the scheme was similar to one involving Nigerians that is being investigated in 15 other states. He said Portland banks are believed to have lost \$28,500.

The agent said Onibis applied for special credit cards given to college students who have no credit history. He said the applicants must show they are students.

The Cruise picture was used on a fake student

identification from Pacific University, Miller said.

"It looks like he just cut it out of a magazine," the agent said. "It's from one of his old movies."

Another fake identification picture bore a strong resemblance to actress Brook Shields.

Onibis was arrested on Thursday when he went to a private post office box to pick up a credit card, said Miller. The agent said the box was one of several mail drops Onibis was using.

Miller said the FBI has been investigating similar cases involving Nigerians since 1980. He said groups of Nigerians have been entering the United States illegally or posing as students and have been operating the scam throughout the nation.

"It comes and goes," Miller said. "A few months ago we received notice from our Cleveland office that a group took banks in that area for \$600,000. They just arrived in Portland and we think we caught them early."

Baker rejected Brazil's plea: study

BOSTON, March 12. (UPI) Secretary of State James A. Baker may have violated a Justice Department conflict-of-interest ruling in 1987 when, as Treasury Secretary, he rejected a plan to make commercial banks write off large amounts of their debt to Brazil, the Boston Sunday Globe reported.

Baker owned a hefty amount of stock in one of the US banks. His decision came three months after his general counsel received a copy of a Justice Department ruling that barred top federal officials from engaging in any decisions — including broad policy matters — that could affect their personal finances, the Globe said.

At a September 1987 meeting with Brazil's finance minister, Baker rejected the South American country's plea to restructure some of its \$70 billion debt to US banks.

Biggest At the time, Baker owned an estimated \$2 million worth of stock in Chemical Bank, which was one of Brazil's biggest creditors with \$1.4 billion in outstanding loans.

The Globe said a subsequent study by Stanford University economist Harry Huizinga found Baker's decision had a positive impact on Chemical Bank's stock, which rose 40 per cent in the next six months, from \$20 a share to \$28 a share.

D. Edward Wilson Jr., former deputy general counsel at the Treasury Department, said the Justice Department policy was of "great concern" to the lawyers who advised Baker. Wilson told the Globe in retrospect he probably should have warned Baker about the possible conflict.

"If there was a screw-up, it was mine," said Wilson, who is now in private law practice. "He probably should have been warned there was a potential problem."

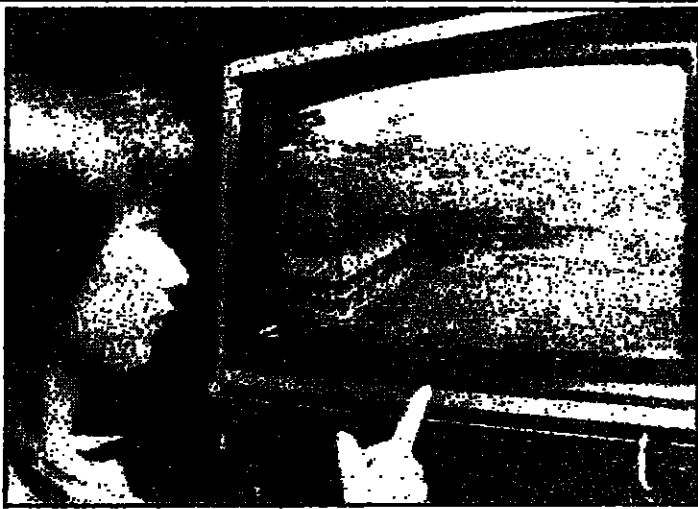
The Justice Department ruling said the federal conflict-of-interest law should be interpreted as barring officials from taking part in any "rule-making and general policy matters" if their decision would have a "direct and predictable effect on their personal holdings."

C. Boyden Gray, current White House counsel, said the Justice Department ruling was his principal argument in persuading Baker to divest himself of his Chemical Bank stock last month. Baker said he was selling the stock to avoid the perception of a conflict of interest.

Chinese firms fined for using IBM trademark

BEIJING, March 12. (AP) Five Chinese electronics companies have been fined a total of about 660,000 yuan (\$179,000) for selling fake IBM computers.

The five companies were all from the special economic zone of Shenzhen across the border from Hong Kong, the trademark office of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce announced yesterday.



High definition TV

A Japanese woman gazes at a high definition television (HDTV) picture demonstrated at the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) on Dec 4, 1987. The United States hopes to become a player in manufacturing HDTVs, which bring the clarity of film to the small screen. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviets dispute over call for individual farming

Bid to revamp policy

MOSCOW, March 12. (AP) President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's strongest rival on the Politburo publicly disputed a reformist call for more individual farming yesterday, four days before Communist Party leaders are to revamp agricultural policy.

Yegor K. Ligachev characterised his preference for collective farming as a group decision, without identifying who supports him.

Ligachev, the former ideology chief of the Communist Party who was shifted to agriculture last autumn in what was widely regarded as a demotion, was interviewed on Soviet television news on a trip to view agriculture in Czechoslovakia.

Progress "We have become convinced one more time that the basis for any progress in food programmes is actually development of collective forms of management, such as collective farms and state farms, along with a steady development of self-financing, or accounting for profits and losses, Ligachev said.

Such accounting is a major part of Gorbachev's reform programme. But Ligachev did not mention Gorbachev's repeated praise for experiments in leasing state farm land to families and small groups.

Just last week, Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov said in a press conference that the Kremlin leaders intended to expand family farming significantly through leasing of land.

Reforms Czechoslovakia's agriculture is almost entirely collectivised, but operates under a much more flexible system than Soviet farms.

The Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, the policy-making body of about 300 people, is scheduled to meet on Wednesday to enact drastic reforms in Soviet agriculture.

Wiring and plumbing problems SEATTLE, March 12. (UPI) The US Federal Aviation Administration has released records on 59 wiring and plumbing problems found world-wide in cargo hold and engine fire warning and suppression systems in Boeing jetliners made since 1981.

The breakdown of reports from US and foreign airlines showed: — Engine systems were found with faulty wiring in nine 737s, two 747s, five 757s and three

677s. — Cargo hold systems were found with faulty wiring or plumbing on 13 747s, seven 757s and 20 767s.

The FAA said the mistakes had been reported since March 1988 as a result of routine maintenance or in response to FAA directives.

Nineteen foreign airlines reported findings to the FAA, although they were not required to do so.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US grants Jordan sorghum worth \$27m

AMMAN, March 12. (Reuters) The United States is giving Jordan surplus sorghum worth \$27 million for use as animal feed in a move aimed at saving the kingdom scarce foreign exchange.

An official of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) told Reuters about 236,000 tonnes of yellow sorghum, allocated from surplus US stocks, would be delivered in five shipments between April and September.

"It's being provided on a grant basis, providing Jordan with a direct foreign exchange benefit," he said.

The Jordanian government plans to sell the sorghum as a substitute for higher-priced imported corn to local wholesalers and retailers at about \$120 a tonne, he said.

Capital markets need more expansion

BAHRAIN, March 12. (Reuters) Gulf Arab states should waste no time in developing local capital markets, a Gulf economist said in remarks published today.

Henry Azam, senior economist at the Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank, said in a monthly report that local debt and equity markets needed to be expanded and developed to compete with dramatic progress in other regions.

There should be an increase in the supply of shares and the flow of debt instruments and wider participation in secondary markets, he said.

"Time is not on the Gulf's side in the race to develop local capital markets," he added.

A recent decision by the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council to allow its nationals to trade in the shares of any member state and the opening of stock exchanges in Bahrain and Kuwait later this year would be beneficial, he said.

Workers, radical students stage rally

SEOUL, March 12. (UPI) Some 10,000 workers, radical students and dissidents staged a rally in Seoul today to protest alleged suppression of union activity and part of them battled police for more than an hour attempting street demonstrations.

The rally, sponsored by the United National Democratic Movement of Korea and other anti-government groups, was held at Yonsei University in western Seoul.

Following the two-hour gathering about 500 workers and students tried to march off the campus for street protests. Blocked by about 1,000 police the protesters hurled hundreds of firebombs and rocks. Police retaliated with tear gas.

The police mobilised six mobile launchers to fire hundreds of tear gas bombs at the demonstrators. Police also hurled back rocks thrown by the protesters. It was one of the most violent clashes in recent weeks.

Clark for Tunisia to boost trade ties

TUNIS, March 12. (KUNA) British Trade Minister Alan Clark tomorrow will pay an official three-day visit to Tunisia.

A responsible Tunisian source said Clark, whose visit comes at the invitation of his Tunisian counterpart, will hold talks with Tunisian officials and businessmen on means of boosting economic co-operation between the two countries.

Clark's visit to Tunisia will be followed by a British businessmen delegation visit scheduled for next May to promote investment in trade and industry areas between the two capitals.

He further said during his visit Tunisian officials will continue with him consultations with European Economic Community countries.



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Urban poverty in US alarming: study

WASHINGTON, March 12, (AP) Poverty in America's cities has grown more persistent and concentrated over the last two decades, and its victims have less chance of escape, according to a report by the National League of Cities.

The study describes a changing face of poverty since 1970, with the nation's poor more likely now to live in metropolitan areas and concentrate in low-income neighbourhoods.

It said the proportion of children living in poverty has increased and the likelihood of people climbing above the poverty level has declined.

Persistent

"Poverty in cities is changing in quality and intensity," the report said. "It is more persistent among particular households, more concentrated within particular neighbourhoods, and more isolated from traditional avenues of escape."

The league released its report, "Poverty in cities," ahead of a gathering of nearly 3,000 municipal leaders in Washington for the organisation's annual winter meeting. The meeting opened on Saturday and runs through Tuesday.

"Both the figures and the trends are alarming," Alan

Beals, executive director of the National League of Cities, said in releasing the report. "Such conditions are devastating for those caught up in it, especially children."

The report is an analysis and compilation of previous research, said poverty in America declined through much of the 1970s, to a rate of under 12 per cent at the end of the decade. But a resurgence brought the rate to more than 15 per cent by 1985, and the average rate for the years 1980 through 1987 was over 14 per cent, the league said.

Increase

The portion of the nation's poor living in metropolitan areas grew from 62 per cent in 1979 to 70 per cent in 1985 — an increase of 7.6 million people, with the majority living in central cities, it said.

The report said the persistence of poverty — the length of time a person remains poor — has grown. It cited previous studies of the proportion of urban poor in a given year who escaped poverty the following year and said in the late 1960s, that figure was 32 out of 100.

Called the "escape probability," the figure rose to 37 out of 100 in the mid-1970s, meaning that poverty became less persistent, but began declining and was 23

out of 100 by the early 1980s.

"There has been a substantial decrease in the chances that a poor person will escape poverty within the following year," it said.

Proportion

An increase was also recorded in the proportion of poor residents of big cities who live in neighbourhoods that are classified as extremely poor — where at least 40 per cent of residents live below the poverty line. Among the 50 largest cities, the concentration-of-poverty rate increased from 16 per cent in 1970 to 24 per cent in 1980, meaning nearly 25 per cent of the large-city poor lived in extremely poor neighbourhoods.

The report said poor neighbourhoods of large central cities have become increasingly isolated from the rest of the metropolitan areas, with more clear differences in socioeconomic and physical conditions.

As more ghetto dwellers live in more isolated deprivation, their opportunities for jobs, training and other means of climbing out of poverty are reduced, it said.

The study said blacks and Hispanics were more likely than whites to live in extremely poor neighbourhoods, and poverty among blacks was more persistent than for other groups.

Interest rates set to rise further

Dollar continues to show upward trend

IT HAS generally been a quiet week with the dollar continuing to trend upwards supported by a wide interest rate differential in the US unit's favour. In addition, sentiment was underpinned by confirmation from the Bundesbank that they perceive little need to tighten German credit in the near term, according to NBK weekly market report.

US treasury bonds and equities slipped slightly lower in cautious trading ahead of the release of February's unemployment figures which were a much lower than expected 5.1 per cent (the lowest since May 1974). With non-farm payrolls above the market forecast the dollar strengthened on prospects of higher interest rates.

The US ended the week at: Yen 129.6 and DM1.86. Unemployment was 5.1 per cent in February compared to 5.4 per cent in January and 5.7 per cent in February 1988. This was lower than the market forecast of 5.5 per cent.

Non-farm payrolls were 289,000 last month and an upward revised 415,000 in January. This was higher than market expectations.

The only data releases this week were unemployment and non-farm payrolls. The unemployment figures were much lower than expected with non-farm payrolls above market forecast and continues to provide evidence of a buoyant economy. Labour and capacity constraints are virtually at an all time high and upward inflationary pressure remains the major policy concern. Further rises in interest rates are in prospect.

Next week there are a number

of data releases, the most important of which is merchandise trade which is forecast to remain unchanged at \$10 billion deficit. A figure substantially above this will be taken badly by both bond and equity markets and suggests that interest rates will need to be pushed even further ahead.

Other data releases are likely to provide evidence of strong activity confirming the need to raise interest rates higher. Unless the figures are exceptionally poor for the near term the dollar will benefit on the back of this week's data releases and the need for higher interest rates.

Trading ranges for the coming week are: Y127-132 and DM1.84-1.89.

Earlier in the week the pound was boosted by a sharp downward revision in retail sales volumes which fell by 2.4 per cent in January, the largest monthly drop for two years, indicating a marked slowing down in consumer spending in response to the high interest rate policy.

The equity market was soothed by a firm performance from sterling and was cautiously optimistic ahead of the budget next Tuesday.

The pound failed to break through the DM3.20 resistance level and ended the week at: DM3.197 and £/\$1.715.

Comment

Retail sales fell by 2.4 per cent in January after adjustment for normal seasonal variations. This was the biggest monthly drop for two years and provisional figures had shown a 1.5 per cent fall.

Housing starts rose 1.8 per cent in the three months to the end of January compared with the

previous quarter and were 5 per cent up on the corresponding period last year.

Money market interest rates have barely changed ahead of next Tuesday's budget and are expected to remain within a narrow range. There is little prospect of an early cut in clearing bank base rates until evidence emerges of an easing in inflationary pressure and an improvement in the current account deficit.

However, at the same time, the authorities are keen to avoid a further rise in interest rates.

The budget on March 14 is anticipated to be relatively bland. The Chancellor Nigel Lawson has very little room to manoeuvre given present inflationary concerns. A prospectively large public sector surplus will be used for public debt repayment with anxiety over excess consumer demand providing little leeway for tax changes or raising public expenditure.

(Equally however the government's longer term commitment to reducing the tax burden suggests that no measures to stem excess spending by raising taxes will be taken). With savings levels at an all time low incentives to encourage personal investment may probably be the prime element in this year's budget.

The expected cautious budget should provide some confidence to the markets with bonds and equities moving slightly ahead.

Sterling is expected to remain steady and continue trading within a narrow range. Trading ranges for the coming week are: DM3.17-3.22 and £/\$1.69-1.74.

MARKET SCENE

Arab Saudi Bank profits surge

TOTAL assets of Arab Saudi Bank stood at \$125.3 million at December 31, 1988, up 19 per cent over the previous year's figure, Mohamed Hassan, the bank's director and general manager, announced last week.

The year 1988 produced a net operating profit of \$2.8 million and after provisions of \$1.9 million — an increase of 44 per cent compared to the 1987 figure. Hassan added that cash dividends of 6 per cent share capital are approved.

"The year 1988 was once again marked by steady growth," said Tarek Mowafi, deputy general manager of Arab Saudi Bank. "We have confidence that this growth will continue based on achieving a good quality of assets, availability of sources, customer base and identifying the right investments."

Expense control and high productivity per employee will always be an important factor for continuing our growth," Mowafi added.

Hassan also announced that Arab Saudi Bank is investing 22 per cent in International Investment Corporation (I.I. Corp.), the founder shareholders of which are Arab Saudi Bank along with other companies and individuals from the Gulf, the United Kingdom and Egypt. A meeting of the founder shareholders of the I.I. Corp. was held on February 21 in Bahrain in which it was decided that the authorised capital will be \$20 million, out of which over \$5 million is subscribed by the founder shareholders.

Hassan and Mowafi, the promoters, and Hatim Zu'bi of Al Mahmoud & Zu'bi (legal consultants) were appointed to oversee the registration of the new company.

BIB to host investment seminar

LEADING corporate finance and investment banking specialists will be panelists at a one-day investment conference in Kuwait organised by Bahrain International Bank E.C.

Subjects will include leverage and corporate buyouts, venture capital as well as investment in discounted corporate debt obligations.

The distinguished panel will be comprised of major US and European investment institution representatives who are travelling to the Gulf especially for the conference. Panelists will be from Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Ltd., Oppenheimer & Co. Inc., the Matuschka Group, Point Venture Partners, the Thomas H. Lee Company and Gibbons, Green, Van Amerongen.

Kuwait's Sheraton Hotel will be the venue of the first conference on March 14. On the following day it will be repeated in Bahrain. Both are free to delegates on application to and registration with BIB.

"The conference will provide exposure to a number of investment areas highly relevant to major investors in this region," said Donald J. Sellinger, General Manager, BIB.

Confidence returns to market

THE recent cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq should do much for returning confidence in trade to the Middle East. This equally applies to the meat trade, according to Lloyd D. Beeby, chief executive — Middle East, Australian Meat & Livestock Corporation.

Iran has been a traditional buyer of Australian live sheep and frozen lamb and mutton. The live sheep trade to Iran was closed down in 1983 in favour of the cheaper, more effective form of frozen mutton imports.

"In view of the very large current sheep flock in Australia — nearly 180 million head," said Beeby, "we're expecting mutton to be available in large quantities at very competitive rates in the not too distant future. Iran will likely benefit from this — and, of course, the Gulf region as a whole."

That is an important development in the sheep industry as some of Australia's major competitors in the sale of lamb and mutton have recently dramatically dropped the size of their sheep flock. This will result, in 1989 and 1990 at least, in shortages of sheep meat from these countries, in all likelihood, substantially higher prices than one year ago.

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Economic group aims to achieve Arab unity

KUWAIT, March 12, (KUNA): Four Arab countries with a combined population of over 80 million last month agreed to form an economic group with the ultimate aim of achieving Arab unity.

The Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) came into existence on February 16, following a summit meeting of heads of state of the four member states: Egypt, Yemen Arab Republic, Jordan and Iraq.

According to its founding agreement, the ACC aims at realising the highest degree of co-operation, co-operation, integration and solidarity among the member states towards the best utilisation of their economic capabilities in the interest of economic integration.

Membership of the ACC is open to any interested Arab country at the unanimous consent of the member states.

The total gross national product (GNP) of the ACC is estimated at \$102.5 billion distributed as follows: Jordan four billion, Yemen Arab Republic 2.3 billion, Iraq 45.1 billion and Egypt 51 billion, according to 1986 statistics.

Lands

Cultivable lands in the four countries amount to 20 million hectares, but only 50 per cent of those lands have been exploited.

The annual report of Jordan's Central Bank of the national economy for 1987 indicated that efforts to reactivate the country's economy had continued through the government's encouragement of local production, boosting national exports and attracting foreign investments to utilise them in financing development activities.

The report said the GNP had grown by 3.3 per cent in 1987 compared to 0.8 per cent in 1986. It put the country's GNP at 1,447.3 million dinars.

Jordan's main economic sectors are: agriculture, forestry and fisheries, services and light industries.

Jordan also relies heavily on remittances of its manpower in the oil-rich Gulf states for hard currency, as almost 50 per cent of its working force is employed abroad.

With an area of 434,924 square kilometres, Iraq is considered among the richest Arab countries in regard to natural resources. Cultivable lands are more than the needs of its 16 million population.

Latest statistics estimate Iraq's oil reserve at 100 billion barrels while its daily production does not exceed 2.2 million barrels, its OPEC quota.

Iraq has made successful steps over the last 20 years in the fields of economy, agriculture and social development. In 1981, the revenue of the country's general budget reached 19.4 billion dinars, with an increase of 44.3 per cent over the previous year. Government expenditure was estimated at 19.75 million dinars, an increase of 40 per cent from the previous year with a deficit of 315.4 million dinars against 631.6 in the previous year, a decrease of 50 per cent.

The eight-year-long war with Iran, which swallowed up large portion of the country's output for defence and armament purposes, had partially obstructed Iraq's development process.



The site on human cells

Scientists at the Miles Research Centre of Miles Inc., the health-care company of Mayer USA Inc., have identified the site on human cells through which the most common cold viruses invade and infect the body. The entryway is intercellular Adhesion Molecule 1 (ICAM-1) a receptor protein on the cell surface to which 80 per cent of more than 100 human rhinoviruses attach. Knowledge of the receptor protein may enable scientists to find a drug that blocks the rhinovirus attaching to the wall and thus cure the common cold. Alan McClelland prepares DNA to study the rhinovirus receptor protein. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Nations may distrust Japan'

Scandal weakens negotiating stance

TOKYO, March 12, (AP): For weeks, Japanese television viewers have been treated to an unprecedented spectacle: business leaders and top bureaucrats being hustled off to jail in a widening bribery scandal.

So far, the scandal has been mainly a domestic affair, and no politicians have been among those arrested. But analysts are warning that it has seriously shaken the government, and that even Japan's foreign relations could ultimately be affected.

Prosecutors have arrested 12 people on suspicion of giving or taking bribes or violating securities laws. Executives of Recruit Co., an information conglomerate, allegedly sold shares of unlisted stock in a subsidiary to more than 150 senior bureaucrats, politicians and businessmen in return for favours.

Soared

When the shares began over-the-counter trading, they soared in value, yielding handsome tax-free profits to the officials and businessmen.

Since last July, 17 top politicians — including Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and 11 other Liberal Democrats — have been linked to the purchase of Recruit shares. Nakasone was aware more

than three years ago of a controversial computer purchase that figures in the stock-trading scandal, news reports said yesterday.

Also yesterday a budget debate remained stalled over the opposition's demand that Takeshita appear before parliament to answer questions about the scandal.

Influence

The revelations of alleged influence-buying and abuse of privilege have sapped public support for Takeshita's 16-month-old government.

Tokyo University professor Takeshi Sasaki says the scandal also has weakened the government's negotiating stance in handling domestic and international issues.

"Japan's image is very important given its growing influence in international affairs," Sasaki said. "This scandal has just confirmed Japan's corrupt image in the eyes of foreigners, especially Americans."

Political analyst Takeshi Inoguchi agreed. "Other nations are likely to distrust Japan and question its motivations," he said. Both spoke in interviews.

The analysts say the Recruit scandal could hurt Tokyo as it deals with Washington over such issues as terms of a co-production deal to build a new fighter for Japan's Air Force.

AMMAN

OPNG CLSG

ALA-ADDIN COMPANY 1.87 1.87

ARAB ALUMINUM IND. 1.97 1.96

ARAB BANK 146.0 145.5

ARAB CHEMICAL DTR 4.50 4.50

ARAB FINANCE CORP. 2.44 2.41

ARAB INSURANCE 1.11 1.06

ARAB INT. INV. TRAD. 0.57 0.57

ARAB INT. UNION INS 1.25 1.23

ARAB INTER. HOTELS 0.76 0.76

ARAB JOR. INV. TRD. 2.35 2.35

ARAB PAPER COM/TKD 0.43 0.45

ARAB PHARM. MANF. 3.06 3.06

ARAB PHARMA/CHIEF 1.00 1.01

ARAB POTASH CO. 0.08 0.08

ARABIAN SEAS INS. 1.65 1.65

BANK OF JORDAN 15.20 15.30

BEIT AL-MALY/BEITNA 0.95 0.93

BELGIUM INSURANCE 1.00 0.95

CAIRO AMMAN BANK 31.00 EH

CONFECT/CHOCOLATE 1.05 1.25

DAR AL SHAAB PRESS 0.52 0.52

DAR ALDAMA DV/INV. 2.30 2.27

DARCO/INVEST/HOUS. 0.81 0.79

FINANCE/CREDIT/COR 0.75 0.71

GARAGE OWNERS OFF 4.55 4.60

GENERAL INSURANCE 2.39 2.63

GENERAL INVESTMENT 1.35 1.27

GENERAL MINING. 2.15 2.20

HINER MINERALS 0.75 0.75

HOLY LAND INS. 1.44

IND./MATCH JENCO 0.69 0.70

INDSTR. DEVLPT BKK 1.70 1.64

INDSTR./COM/AGR. 1.63 1.61

INDUSTRIAL INVEST. 0.75 0.75

INTERN.COM/INV 0.13 0.13

IRBID ELECTRICITY 0.91 0.90

ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE 0.64 0.64

INTERMED/PETRI/CH 1.64 1.64

J. TOUR-SP COMPLEX 0.79 0.80

JERUSALEM INS. 1.26 1.29

JO TOBACCO/CIGARET 20.00 19.50

JOR CERAMIC FACTOR 1.89 1.92

JOR EAGLE INS. 25.05 25.05

JOR ELECTRIC POWER 1.60 1.61

JOR FINANCE HOUSE 1.20 1.22

JOR GLASS INDUSTRY 1.02 1.01

JOR HOTEL TOURISM 2.30 2.30

JOR INDUSTRY CHEM. 2.39 2.37

JOR INS AND FIN. 1.20 1.20

JOR LEASING CORP. 0.79 0.83

JOR LTM BRICK 0.22 0.21

JOR MANAG/CONSULT 0.50 0.50

JOR NATIONAL BANK 2.56 2.55

JOR PAPER CARDBRGG 3.75 3.60

JOR PHOSPHATE MINS 3.30 3.30

JOR PIPES MANUFACT 1.66 1.68

JOR PRESS/PUBLISH. 1.79 1.72

JOR PRINTING/PACK. 4.25 4.40

JOR ROCK WOOL IND. 1.01 1.00

JOR SECURIT CORP 1.12 1.11

JOR SELPHO CHEM. 2.80 2.74

JOR WOOD INDUSTRY 1.79 1.79

JOR WORSTED MLL 5.60 5.40

JOR. KUWAIT AGR 1.00 0.97

JOR. PETROLIUM REF 8.05 8.00

JOR. FRENCH INS. 5.45 5.45

JOR. INV. FIN. CORP 2.50 2.52

JORDAN GULF REAL 0.37 0.37

JORDAN DAIRY 0.96 0.96

JORDAN GULF BANK 1.28 1.28

JORDAN GULF INS. 0.94 0.95

JORDAN INSURANCE 3.60 3.60

JORDAN ISLAMIC BKK 2.06 2.10

JORDAN KUWAIT BANK 1.40 1.46

KUWAIT

P. CLS LT HIGH LOW VOL TRADE

BANK SECTOR

-NATIONAL BANK 0.880

-GULF BANK 0.355 0.355 0.355 130000 7

-COMMERCIAL BK 0.255

-AHLI BANK 0.270 0.270 0.265 140000 7

-B.K.N.E. 0.320 0.320 0.320 90000 2

-K.R.E.B. 0.350

-BURGAN BANK 0.250

Tobacco industry booming in Philippines

50,000 Filipinos die each year from smoking

By Yasmin Arquiza

MANILA, Philippines (AP): Business is booming for the country's multimillion-dollar tobacco industry despite vigorous anti-smoking campaigns that include locking up errant smokers.

Both the government and the cigarette industry refuse to release sales figures. But Minda Gapuz, marketing manager of the National Tobacco Administration, said the government earned \$30 million in 1987 from tobacco exports. The figure is believed to have doubled last year.

About 50,000 Filipinos die each year from smoking-related diseases, the Philippine Heart Centre for Asia says. Faced with that grim statistic, the Department of Health has endorsed legislation to ban cigarette advertising, limit sales outlets and prohibit cigarette sales to children under 16.

In addition, Philippine Airlines has banned smoking on domestic flights. This month, Quezon City, the country's second-largest city, forbade smoking in most public places, and police locked up more than 300 offenders during the first two days of the ordinance.

President Corason Aquino has forbidden smoking during cabinet meetings and other indoor gatherings she attends. Gruff presidential security guards strictly enforce her decree.

Although the anti-smoking bill was approved by the Senate on first reading last May, it has not been brought to the floor for a required second approval because of pressure from farmers and industry groups.

Gapuz said that in addition to tobacco export revenue, the government earns about 15 billion pesos (\$704 million) a year from cigarette taxes — an average of more than \$12 for each of the 58 million residents.

At least 100,000 farmers rely on tobacco as their cash crop, she said. Tobacco farmers, who are assured of a steady market, earn about double what they would receive for growing rice and corn.

"That's why the government cannot decide on whether to push through with this anti-smoking bill

or not," Gapuz said.

In the meantime, the bill's supporters, including the Action for Children and Smoking, have launched an aggressive advertising campaign to discourage smoking and pressure Congress into acting on the measure.

"The passage of (the bill) will save lives of Filipino children, of whom 2.5 million, or 8 per cent, are projected by the (World Health Organization) to be killed by cigarettes," Action for Children and Smoking said in a recent statement.

Gapuz said cigarette manufacturers have responded to public pressure by marketing more "light" brands, which contain less nicotine and tar. She said manufacturers were willing to print health warnings, but they have yet to do so.

Gapuz predicted it would take at least five years before public health consciousness could begin to cut deeply into sales because smoking remains fashionable here and elsewhere in the Third World.

Although smoking has declined in Europe and the United States, Gapuz said tobacco consumption rose 2.9 per cent world-wide last year due to increased smoking in developing countries.

"It's the cheapest luxury, and it's also a status symbol," Gapuz said. She noted that the Philippines now exports tobacco to China and Saudi Arabia, where cigarette demand has gone up.

In Manila, thousands of vendors, many of them barely in their teens, wander through traffic-clogged streets daily peddling individual cigarettes at 75 centavos (three US cents) apiece to stalled motorists.

Television advertisements, featuring stylish, Western-looking actors and actresses, extol the "glamour" of smoking in a style that long since has fallen out of favour in the United States and Western Europe.

Even the Marlboro Man the virile cowboy banned from American screens more than a decade ago, still rides the range daily promoting his brand for Philippine television viewers.

Grim statistics on unemployment

Sub-standard schools are part of the problem

By N.G. Rama

NINE point one per cent of our labour force, according to the Department of Labour and Employment, are unemployed. The labour force — persons above 15 years, willing and able to work — adds up to 23.4 million. Of these, only 21.4 million find jobs, and of the 21.4 million employed, 32.6 per cent are underemployed.

It's about the highest unemployment rate in our part of the world. In other countries such number would have resulted in national chaos or collapse. But in the Philippines, many of them are still unemployed because they are so poorly educated by sub-standard schools (seven out of ten schools are substandard). They don't measure up. They can't pass examinations, given either by the private firms or the government.

On the other hand, there are schools that can guarantee flying colours in government examinations. These are the maritime schools. The ideal aim of schools is to give a person a well-rounded education. In our country of the disadvantaged, parents have revised such objective.

They send their children to school primarily to escape the poverty in their lives, to give their children a new start, a higher status than theirs which is the everlasting struggle to survive. Thanks to our failure to make intelligent educational reforms for decades now, they fail on both scores.

Now, a class by itself is nursing education. The US urgently needs now 300,000 nurses. US hospitals love Filipino nurses because they can speak English and possess "caring quality."

Among the professionals abroad, it's Filipino nurses who practise their profession with pride and dignity. They are among the highest paid — from \$1,800 to \$3,000 or from \$36,000 to \$60,000 a month.

The Philippine Nursing Association (PNA) does everything to stop nurses from getting those jobs in the US on the ground of "brain drain" and "patriotism."

They want to keep us here, plenty of us, says a nurse graduate, so that they could hire us cheap — about P1,500 a month. (PNA officers are mostly with hospital management). They invoke "brain drain" but what they want is cheap brain, or unemployed brain, more poverty for everybody. Why are the nurses singled out to do "patriotic" sacrificing for the country?

A nurse sends an average of \$400 a month to her parents, brothers and sisters here, thanks to the Filipino culture. She lifts her family from poverty and sends her brothers and sisters to school, her sisters urged to take up nursing so they could go to the US and give more help to the family and country. The PNA would stop this setup as unpatriotic.

It has also imposed a moratorium on new schools of nursing, thus protecting the many nursing diploma mills that waste the lives of young students by producing graduates that can't pass board examinations, here or abroad. Some enterprising groups were stopped from setting up no-nonsense nursing schools with highly-paid professors from here and abroad. We prefer the diploma mills.

If we can't make our schools instruments of our redemption, then we are pretty hopeless.

FLASSIK '89 reaches out

Bingo session is a success

IT was an evening of fun and frolic at the Anak Restaurant, last week with a promotional bingo session, co-hosted by FLASSIK '89.

It was a tremendous success, as many nationalities, especially Filipinos from all walks of life turned up for the event.

The ever-active FLASSIK officers and members added zest and spirited enjoyment to the occasion as they mingled with the visitors and participants.

Bobby Madayag, the pioneer Filipino restaurateur in Kuwait, who is behind the success of the Anak Restaurant, opened the session with his welcome address.

The energetic FLASSIK Director, Esther Madamba, who was also the emcee, touched the core of the Filipino audience with her speech:

"FLASSIK will never be the same, if it cannot reach all the corners of the Filipino society. It is the eminent desire of this association to reach out to every Filipino and develop internal

solidarity among us," Madamba said.

The presence of the OWWA (Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration) representatives, was acknowledged, as they joined the crowd in the increasing excitement around them.

As the programme progressed to the bingo game, Charito Nepomuceno, FLASSIK Vice-President, explained the mechanics of the game. Ten (10) game sets were completed, with respective winners emerging from each game, who were awarded with various gift surprises. The following were the lucky winners:

1st game winner, Estrella Belasco; 2nd game winner, Enay Escudero; 3rd game winner, Soliman Dumlao; 4th game winner, Bernard Calvez; 5th game winner, Edna Castillo; 6th game winner, Tina Calvez; 7th game winner, Ted Manalang; 8th game winner, Vangie Slattery; 9th game winner, Anie Grant; 10th game winner, Willie Sabay/Emily Fontanilla.

This is the second promotional bingo session which FLASSIK has co-hosted. The first one was at the Far East Restaurant Promotional Bingo Session.



Incognito: guests at KAPILKU's Masquerade Ball at the Holiday Inn on Friday

Laughs galore at costume ball

Revelers defy sand storms

IN SPITE of the sand storm last Friday, members of the Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (KAPILKU) and their guests braved the inclement weather to attend the first "Grand Masquerade Ball" held at Holiday Inn Hotel, Al Andalus Club.

All the guests conformed to the rules of the evening sporting magnificent masks. Some also came in wearing fantastic costumes managing to fool even their close friends.

Manny Inserto, president of KAPILKU, in his welcoming address expressed his appreciation to all members and guests who made an effort to come to the ball, in spite of the raging dust storm. He also thanked the Al Widad International Exchange Company who sponsored the ball.

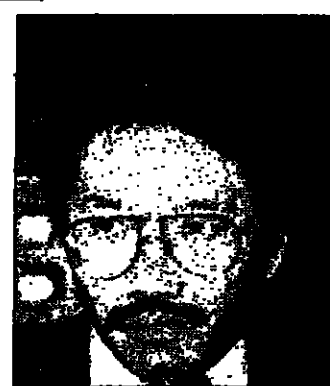
Musical interludes were provided by last week's "Sing-Alike" champion Milano Mendez and Neil Ferrer. Bong Pagutuyao, clad in a night dress and calling himself the Madonna of Kuwait, brought much amusement to the crowd, with his mimicry of the famous singer.

Awards under the category of "Best Mask," "Best Costume," and "Best Couple," were handed out to successful participants.

The best mask for ladies went to Elsa Aquino, sporting a "yash-



Elsa Aquino: best mask



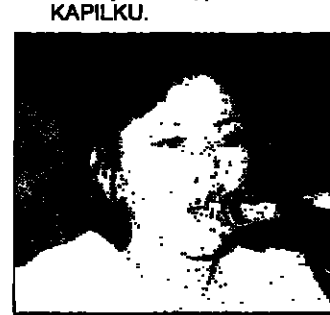
Manny Inserto, president, KAPILKU

mak," while Milano Mendez' monster mask "scared" the judges into awarding him a prize as well. Andy Reyes as a witch doctor, Ojie Olor dressed as a rabbit and Cynthia Antonio in a cocktail evening dress won prizes for their costumes. Filipina Malov Vargas and Jamal, an Iraqi national were unanimously voted as the "Best Couple."

All the winners received valuable prizes donated by Al Widad International Exchange Co.

The objective of this particular KAPILKU project, chaired by Sarah Macarimbang was to raise funds for the association and to provide financial assistance to needy members.

Olivia Palala, charge d'affaire



Sarah Macarimbang

and consul of the Philippine embassy was the guest of honour at the ball.

Gatekeepers for the evening were VP Jimmy Tadana, VP Ojie Olor, AVP Sonny Uy, treasurer Vennie Garcia, VP Freddie Fernando, VP Homer Mesina, AVP Willy Sabay, Jojo Medrano, Bobby Bautista, Helen Inserto and Mar Dorado, while Rod Cerezo was the emcee.



Monster Milano Mendez says hello!



Some of the masks and costumes managed to fool even their best friends.

Aquino's daughter to star in film

PALACE sources confirm reports that Kris Aquino has been given permission to make her "first and only" feature film this year. The word is that Joey de Leon has had a meeting at Malacanang, and is being tapped to direct the film, which is conceptualized as a "light" piece rather than as a "heavy" drama. This is a good decision, because Kris is most entertaining when she's playing herself.

However, the film should not be as giddily fantastic as Joey de Leon films like She-Man and Starzan. It should be based on realistic situations and characters, and, in its own light way, should have something substantial to say about people, relationships, etc.

It has been stipulated that the film's script should be "sensible." In the light of the film industry's current output, that could be a tall order! It's important, therefore, for Kris' mentors to have script approval, and to ask for changes before the project faces the camera.

One-day hair beauty class on March 17

THE Free Class Project of Kapisanang Filipino sa Kuwait (KAPILKU) will launch the "Hair Beauty Class" on Friday, March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Al Diwan conference room between 2.00 and 6.00 pm.

Flamboyant Luz Mesenas, the instructor of this class and an expert in this field will demonstrate the following topics: hair cutting, hair styling, hair cutting and perming, scalp massage and treatment, and hair dyeing.

Each participant will be given a practical demonstration to familiarize themselves with the basic techniques and procedures. The class is open to all ladies and men and the registration is free to all KAPILKU members.

All participants are requested to bring a cutting scissor and comb (with tail). They are also requested to bring along with them their friends who may wish to be a model during the demonstration.

For registration and particulars, please contact Ojie Olor vice-president for welfare and special projects and the chairman of this class, on 5634200 or Jojo Medrano, the vice-chairman.

Other forthcoming classes are: a baking class on March, cooking class (Asian dishes) on March 31 and a tailoring class on April 14; at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

All the free classes will be sponsored by Boodai Aviation (Philippines Door to Door Service). Samer Darwish, sales and marketing manager of Boodai Aviation (Cargo Division) will award a Certificate of Attendance to all successful participants.

Mini-Olympics on May 12

THE 9th annual Palarong Pilipino Mini-Olympics will be held tentatively on May 12. The following sports will be contested:

Men's division: Billiard, dama and sikaran-karate (exhibition game) Men's and women's divisions: Basketball, bowling, volleyball, swimming, badminton, lawn tennis, table tennis, chess, darts and track and field. All interested participants can secure application forms from Teddy dela Cruz, attache, Philippine embassy, tel. 2521754, 2522034 and 2524398. Freddie Fernando, VP sports and recreation, and chairman of the Palaro, and Willy Sabay can be contacted on tel. 5624509.

All sports committee chairmen and vice-chairmen are requested to attend the general meeting on Friday, March 17 at 9.30 am, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, EDR. Topics to be discussed are budget, entrance fees, rules and regulations, and uniforms.



Guests enjoy themselves at the Bingo session co-hosted by FLASSIK at the Anak Restaurant.



Dance fete planned

Inspired by the innominate success of the Valentine Extravaganza last February 10, The FLASSIK '89 is presenting a dance fete called BARN DANCE INSPIRINGTIME, on March 31, at 8pm, at the Holiday Inn, Al Andalus Disco Club.

The highlight will be the selection of "Dancers of All Seasons" from among the contestants. Tickets are available at KD 5 at the Far East Restaurant, Ambassador Stores, Anak Restaurant, Mabuhay Restaurant, Al-Bahar Store, and among FLASSIK officers and members.

Helping the needy

A FILIPINO forensic patient who was confined at the hospital for psychological medicine for two years has been repatriated through the efforts of FLASSIK. Grace Covarrubias, Flask President, accompanied the patient back to the Philippines. The air ticket of Ms Covarrubias was generously sponsored by Ramzi Jabseh, manager of Oriental Trading and Refrigeration Company.

FLASSIK also donated clothings for a Filipino mother and her 10-year-old baby boy, who are, at present, detained at the Sulabiya Prison Cell. The association is constantly trying to contribute effectively to the progress of similar cases.

The Welfare Referral Programme, which has been launched recently by FLASSIK, is very much on the go. Co-ordinators are posted in various areas to pave the way for an easier and more tangible system of reaching out to their fellow countrymen, especially the less fortunate ones.

Membership drive in full swing

A MEMBERSHIP campaign for KAPILKU is in full swing and interested Filipinos may obtain their application forms and ID at any of the following outlets: Philippine embassy; Hatid Ligaya - Abughosh Int'l (Phil's door to door service); Mabuhay Restaurant; Kabayan Restaurant; Anak Restaurant; Far East Restaurant; Philippine Gift Shop; Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd; Al Widad Int'l

Exchange Co.; Pinoy Restaurant and Holiday Inn Hotel (Bowling Alley).

The benefits of being a KAPILKU member are tremendous says VP Jimmy Tadana, who is the chairman of this drive. Members are entitled to free classes, discounts, free gifts in return for their commitment to the association.

A raffle contest during the opening of the Palarong Pilipino Mini-Olympics will also be included for all members, Tadana said.

For details please call Jimmy Tadana on tel 5339879.

Getting a head start in Kuwait



Peter M. Cruz

PETER M. Cruz is the latest addition to the growing list of enterprising Filipinos in Kuwait.

An accomplished and versatile hair stylist with years of experience behind him, he has come to Kuwait with the aim — to show that Filipinos are also distinctive when it comes to hair grooming and styling.

He has been the recipient of several awards on national hairdressing competitions in Manila.

Peter is an official member of HACAP (Hairdressers and Cosmetologist Association of the Philippines) and FILHAIR co-operative, organisations spearheaded by the likes of Ricky Reyes and Jun Encarnacion.

Being closely associated with the above organisations, has kept him up-to-date with the latest trends and techniques in hair grooming.

In Kuwait, his venue is a modest hairdressing saloon for men, called "Buhok Pinoy", which opened recently at Al-Rawdan Bldg, near Safeway, in Fahahel.

Geared mainly to cater to Filipino males, a stream of other nationalities also come to avail of the varied services offered.

ENVIRONMENT

By Stephen Powell

SAO PAULO, (Reuters): Brazil's government, media and public are reacting with strong nationalistic feelings to intense foreign criticism over the destruction of Amazon forests.

Brazilians are letting rip with robust invective against foreigners — especially the United States — who criticise the country's stewardship of Amazonia. The international concern stems largely from scientists' fears that the widespread burning of Amazon forests could contribute to disastrous disruption of the planet's climate.

"Demagoguery of the Americans and Europeans. They can go to the devil," the governor of Sao Paulo state, Orestes Quercia, said in a comment typical of many.

The Army Minister, General Leonidas Pires Gonçalves, charged in February that the international pressures were being orchestrated by "false ecologists." The general said the objective was "internationalization of the whole of the Amazon."

The military have long feared that foreigners wish to wrest control of the vast mineral-rich region away from Brazil.

Political analysts say this fear is at the root of the government's staunch refusal to entertain any idea of so-called debt-for-nature swaps, in which foreign debt is forgiven in exchange for pledges to protect the environment.

Brazil is the Third World's biggest debtor, owing \$115 billion.

Swaps

Debt-for-nature swaps have been advocated for years by environmental groups and have taken place in several countries.

Western governments have also taken up the idea and are now dangling before Brazil the carrot of debt reduction, in exchange for better protection of the Amazon.

The Brazilians have bluntly rejected the idea.

"There does not exist any international money which can buy one square metre of Brazilian Amazonian soil," President Jose Sarney said in February.

There is effectively no dialogue at present between Brazil and the developed nations on the Amazon question.

The government said Sarney had decided not to go to a meeting in the Hague on March 11 on atmospheric pollution.

Official sources said the Foreign Ministry and the



Smouldering climate: farmers in Brazil are burning enough trees to stoke the global greenhouse effect.

Amazon issue brings nationalist backlash

Brazilians let rip at 'false ecologists'

military had persuaded Sarney not to attend because his presence could bring further criticism of Brazil on environmental issues.

Brasilia's strategy is to strengthen the eight-nation Amazon Pact organisation and to press the argument that the region's problems are the exclusive concern of Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela.

Day after day the Brazilian press now carries comment from leading citizens condemning foreign intervention in Amazonia.

"It is a frenzy. The Brazilian press is running amok and so is the Brazilian government," said one Western diplomat who added that he had never seen such unanimity in the country on any issue.

One of Brazil's best-known novelists, Rachel de Queiroz, recently wrote a blistering attack on the United States and the Netherlands, two countries where there is strong concern over the rapid destruction of the world's greatest rainforest.

The novelist said in the newspaper O Estado de Sao Paulo that the Dutch were "old pirates of the seven seas, who always revealed themselves to be the worst colonisers in the world."

She then tackled the United States.

"The Americans, my god what right do they have to censure the ecological treatment given to nature?" she asked.

"Who was it who invented and used the most potent exterminating agent conceived by the human mind: the atomic bomb?"

"And who used napalm and

other chemical agents to destroy forests in the Vietnam war?"

The government, too, has strongly pushed the idea that developed nations are worse environmental offenders than Brazil.

"They are the worst plunderers. They discharge their wastes into the atmosphere, damaging the ozone layer, and they still stockpile nuclear arms which can destroy humanity two or three times over," Sarney said in Brasilia on Feb 27.

Brazilian press criticism of the United States reached a peak at the end of February, after reports from Tokyo that President Bush had asked Japanese authorities not to lend money to Brazil to build a road through to Peru.

This project is given high priority by Brazil, which says it will provide the country with a

road link to the Pacific and cut the trade route to Japan by 12,000 km (7,000 miles).

Leading environmentalists such as Thomas Lovejoy of Washington's Smithsonian Institution say the road would be the beginning of the end for Amazonia.

A US embassy spokesman in Brasilia said he could not confirm that Bush had made this request concerning the road. But the reports made front page headlines in Brazil.

The respected Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper carried a page one report that pressures from abroad over Amazonia could push Brazil's military into developing nuclear weapons.

Brazil's growing ecological movement is seeking to dampen the nationalist indignation in the country and to point out that

there is large-scale devastation of the Amazon.

The more conservative scientific estimates say that Brazil's Amazon jungle is shrinking by an area the size of Belgium every year, as cattle ranchers burn down great swathes of forest.

Despite the difficulties, Brazilian environmentalists say they are still battering away trying to persuade the government that there is a problem.

Brazil's veteran environmental campaigner, Jose Lutzenberger, was asked recently if he sometimes felt like giving up the struggle.

He replied: "Suppose you find yourself about 30 kilometres off the coast in shark-infested waters after a shipwreck. Your chances of reaching the shore are practically nil. But do you stop swimming?"

Global warming: how cold Canada will suffer

By Solange De Santis

TORONTO, (Reuters): Canadians, who constantly refine the art of enduring long winters, might be expected to welcome a global warming trend. But raising the average temperature in Canada by just a few degrees would cause more grief than pleasure, scientists say.

Halifax's historic waterfront would flood as land ice melted. Atlantic fishermen would have to range further north as cold-water fish moved out of warmer waters.

More forest fires would scar the great woods of Ontario. Quebec and British Columbia. The vast prairie grain belt — Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan — would bake as the number and length of hot, dry summers increased.

"On balance, it would not be very good. Think back to this past summer," said Al Malinauskas, head of the Canadian climate programme in Toronto.

Predict Scientists predict that this year's heat and drought, which slashed crop yields and exacerbated forest fires, will become more common due to the gradual warming of the earth.

This so-called "greenhouse effect" is the result of increased pollutants in the air, which act as a chemical roof, trapping hot air close to the earth's surface.

Current research indicates the trend cannot be reversed soon.

"There's hardly any way to stop it, but we can slow it down," Malinauskas said. "Carbon dioxide, which is half the total (of pollutants), is a natural product of the burning of fossil fuels — oil, gas, wood or coal."

Alternatives to fossil fuel combustion are limited. "One possibility is nuclear power, but that's stalled at the moment, and we're running out of rivers we can dam for hydro (electric) power," said Peter Stokoe, an environment professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

A study recently written by Stokoe about what the warming trend would do to Canada's

Atlantic environment 50 years from now made some startling forecasts.

Sea ice would no longer form south of Labrador and the St. Lawrence seaway would remain ice-free and navigable year-round, he predicted.

"That could turn out to be disadvantage to shipping and ports in the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Ships that now can't get to Montreal in the winter go to Halifax or St. John's," Stokoe said. But Montreal and Quebec City would pick up more shipping business, he said.

Warmer sea water off the maritimes would increase the lobster haul, since the crustaceans tend to be sedentary and less likely to crawl into traps at colder temperatures, Stokoe said.

But the quality of the catch could decline since they tend to shed their shells at a faster rate in warmer water.

Newfoundland and Nova Scotia fishermen will have to change their fishing patterns, he said. "Cod tends to be a northern fish, now found on the Grand Banks (off Newfoundland), but we may see more of them further north. And haddock now on the Scotia shelf could range into the Grand Banks," Stokoe said.

Current forecasts predict a rise in sea level, due to melting land ice, of 25 centimetres (10 inches) to two metres (six feet).

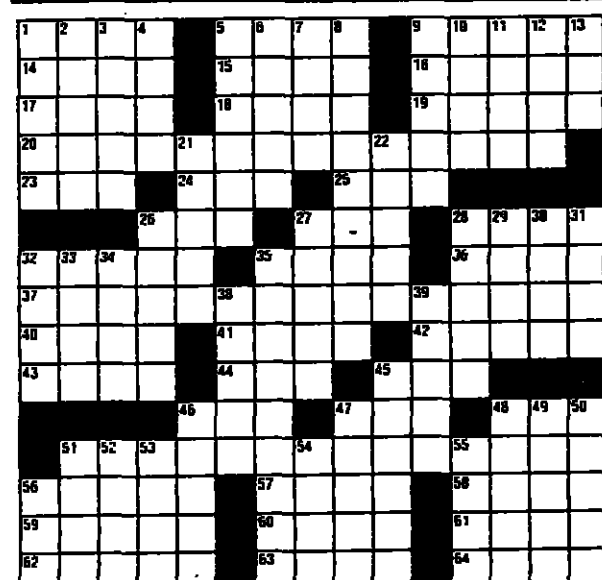
"We assumed a one metre (three feet) rise for our study. That would overwhelm a number of facilities in Halifax harbour," Stokoe said, including the restored waterfront shops and exhibits called the historic properties.

"It's gradual, but it's not too soon to begin taking this kind of thing into account in building roads and causeways," he said.

For some people, the idea of coastal flooding is more personal.

"I get people calling me about once a month asking, 'is it a good idea to buy waterfront property?'" said Dr Tim Oke, professor of atmospheric science at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 As well
5 Gossip tidbit
9 Lockups
14 Shine
15 Artist Joan
16 Fragrant oil
17 — boy!
18 Blueprint
19 Menu items
20 1981 Academy Award winner
23 Actor Howard
24 Draft org.
25 Course peg
26 Literary monogram
27 US money
28 Continental capital
32 Progeny
35 Tap dancer
36 Footnote abbr.
37 James Baldwin opus: 1963
40 Joseph's pride
41 Sea birds
42 "them" author
43 Columnist John
44 Grant opponent
45 Map abbreviations
46 Maureen's daughter
47 Summer, in Monaco
48 Harlem room
51 "Die Walkure" highlight
56 Beer garden quail
57 Boris or Nicholas
58 Isolated rock
59 Actress Worth
60 Otherwise
61 Feature of 62
62 Charger
63 Roger of the stage

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

DATA ROTA AMEN
EVEL FWER TEPEE
CENTIPEDE ONEAL
OCTANE SCENTERS
REAM ARCA
FOB PLOD RELATE
ADEPT ROTO IDEA
COLE PANEL SOTS
ERIN ILEX ATREE
TSETSE EARL ESS
ACTI NEON
SERGEANT CHOPPY
AVION TIENTACLES
MILNE RENO KITE
LEIS OMER SEER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Void ♠ AJ93 ♠ QJ9 ♠ AJ10643
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?
A.—Why flog a dead horse? When partner opened the bidding, slam was a possibility, but the hands appear to be a complete misfit. There doesn't seem to be any point to looking for an alternative contract, so we would pass. Just hope he makes it.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AJ94 ♠ AQ72 ♠ AK876 ♠ Void
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—You have a very fine hand, and slam is a distinct possibility—if you have a fit! Don't crowd the auction by jumping to two diamonds. You might need all the bidding room you can muster to probe for your best spot. Bid one diamond.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 93 ♠ K7 ♠ A108 ♠ AKJ984
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Throw away your textbooks! Partner has made a positive bid—he would have passed with 6-7 points—and you have a hand that rates to produce seven or eight tricks. Jump to three no trump.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K9 ♠ 78 ♠ QK8732 ♠ AJ65
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
? A.—There's no reason why, you should not complete the picture of your hand by bidding three clubs. That shows six diamonds and four clubs—with 5-4, your first rebid would have been two clubs.

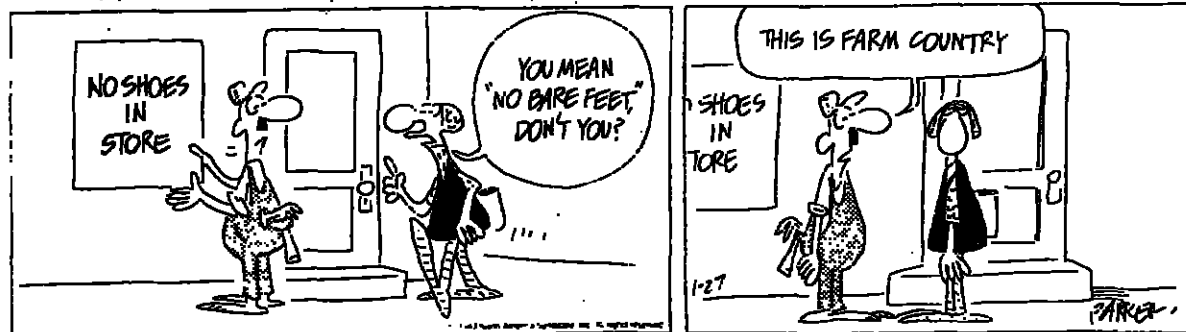
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 83 ♠ K954 ♠ K82 ♠ Q1076
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—Since East's double is directed toward the majors, there is little to recommend a one heart response—the possibility of your side having a 4-4 heart fit is slight. Bid one no trump, the textbook way to show 8-9 points. That also prevents the opponents from finding the spade suit at the one level.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 952 ♠ 84 ♠ AKQJ95 ♠ 76
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
A.—Had your suit been a major, we could find some justification for bidding it. But since it's a minor, your best bet is to pass and hope the opponents land in a no trump contract. As long as you lead fourth-best from your longest and strongest, their chances of making it are slight.



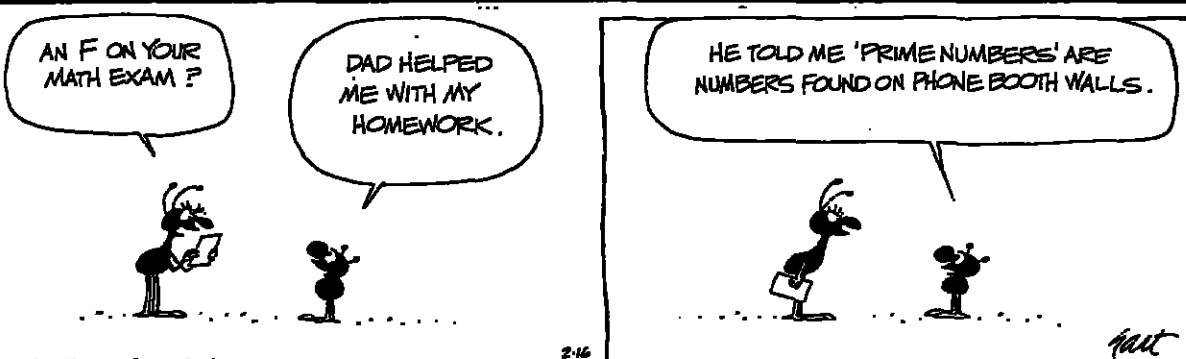
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You should not allow your mind to wander from one thing to another. Make sure you eat a varied diet. You should make sure that you do not get into a debt and that you receive what is owing to you. Be firm.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

There is no time to lose, but that does not mean you should try to run where a walking pace is needed. You should let others have their say and take note of their opinions. It would be wrong to believe all you hear. Be truthful.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Concentrate on what has to be done at once and do not think of all the other things that also have to be done for the moment. Do not tell a person just what you think of them unless it is flattering. Take more care of your appearance.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will have some problems parking, but must not take any chances with meters. Do not expect others to agree with every word you say. Mercury's influence will help you to rid yourself of gloomy thoughts. Be moderate.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

There is no time to lose, but that does not mean you should try to run where a walking pace is needed. You should let others have their say and take note of their opinions. It would be wrong to believe all you hear. Be truthful.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You should not despair if it is taking a long time to learn something you are studying — you will master it in the end. A problem will prove to be easier to deal with than first seemed the case. Be less belligerent.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

It will seem at first that you have bitten off more than you can chew, but soon you will find it not to be so. You should make sure your partner feels wanted and loved. You should try to communicate your enthusiasm. Be courteous.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You should listen to both sides of the argument, but there is no point in trying to sit on the fence. You will find it easier to understand something that has been causing you difficulties. Do not be taken in by appearances. Be tolerant.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Something you have not been able to understand will suddenly become plain to you. You will have so much to do that you are in danger of leaving something important undone. The results of your efforts will tend to disappoint you.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You will feel a little listless and will have to make an effort to get things done. Others are liable not to give you what you feel are your just deserts. You will be able to introduce a most useful innovation. Be objective.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)

Something that at first sight seemed simple will prove to be far more difficult than you thought. However if you persevere and do not allow yourself to be intimidated by the task you will succeed.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will feel that you have been slighted but on reconsideration you will find this is not really the case. Venus' better influence will help you to keep out of serious trouble. The situation you are in is complex.

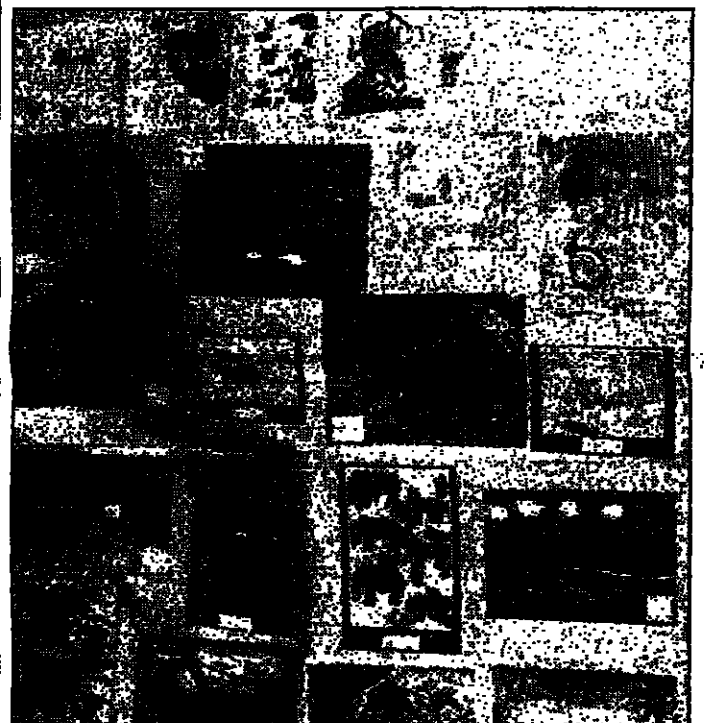
مكتبة منار



Anil Kapoor and Vijayashanti in Eeshwar.



● An Animal Fun Day was recently held at the Messiah Beach Hotel. While children played games, the adults enjoyed music and saw the paintings made by the kids on the animal theme. Imaginative pictures painted were displayed. It was a fun day for all. Pictures show (above) two children in "animal" make-up; (below) some of the paintings on display.



Kuwaiti violinist in concert

★ Kuwaiti violinist Rashid Hussein on Saturday gave a concert at the University Club in Shuwaikh. Hussein, who is a student of the Higher Institute of Music, is considered to be one of the best Kuwaiti violinists. He played violin pieces by Vivaldi, Kreisler, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Monti. He was accompanied by Polish pianist Cezary Owerkowicz. Picture shows Hussein playing at the concert. (Photo by Mohammad Abbas)

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

Of purity, simplicity and honesty

By Fathima Ahmed

AFTER viewing sleazy films that pour out by the dozens from Bombay's conveyor belt film industry, one despairs the lack of novelty in movies. It seems there is hope — at least from South Indian directors who are making their foray into the Hindi film industry.

An encouraging example is director K. Vishwanath's remake of a south Indian film Swathi Muthiam in Hindi as Eeshwar. Not only does Eeshwar promise improved cinema but it also revives hope in humanity.

Eeshwar seems to be inspired by Raj Kapoor's tramp in Awara with a difference: he is slightly retarded. Yet, Eeshwar's simplicity, honesty and loyalty are uncompromising. For Eeshwar, things are good or bad. There is no in-between, no compromise and no other way.

Tell me, he tells his wife Lalita: "Should I speak the truth or the untruth?" Lalita can't answer him. Neither can the viewers.

Eeshwar's purity of mind and heart is touching and consoling. Yet, his piety seems out of reach in today's materialistic world. Is it really?

Vishwanath's screenplay touches on other social issues, prominent among them are widow-remarriage and the pitiable situation of a vast majority of women in India.

Lalita, widowed five years

after marriage, is rejected by her in-laws. Rejected by society, she lives in isolation. Perhaps, it takes a man as simple as Eeshwar to review her situation, and maybe that of scores of other women in a similar situation.

"Is there any way out for her?" he asks his granny, who replies: "If a man gives her shelter, she may find happiness." So he does. If life were all that simple, and clear, the world would be a far better place. It isn't.

Vishwanath is sensitive to women's freedom and tries to help them. Women have yet to find a way out of the oppression they face in a male dominated society. Lalita's silences cries for redemption, she even gets it, but at a high price.

Eeshwar is a poignant, moving film, with crisp direction and lifting music.

Anil Kapoor, by virtue of having an innocent but intelligent face, is unable to live up to the simplicity of Eeshwar. Yet, he tries hard to fit the bill, and remarkably succeeds. He is ably supported by Vijayashanti, a fine South Indian actress, who makes her Hindi film debut in Eeshwar. Vijayashanti's expressive eyes and fluid facial movements tell much more than words could ever do.

Meri Biwi Ki Shadi

As the title suggests, leading man Anil Kapoor visualises his wife's marriage in the comedy Meri Biwi Ki Shadi.

But the laughs are few and far between in the staid comedy about a chronic hypochondriac who foresees his death and wants to leave behind a happy wife. The film lacks movement and pace and is bogged down in trivia. Judicious editing could have avoided the boredom that occurs after the first half of the film. It is enjoyable if you have nothing better to do. Ranjeeta plays the perfect foil for Anil's far-fetched plan.

Anjam Khuda Jane

The film runs for 18-long reels, without coming to any conclusion about what it is trying to tell. Anjam Khuda Jane belongs to no particular category, drifting from one aspect to another. These range from friendship to enmity, with all the formulas thrown in for good effect. Nothing works. Not even Naseeruddin Shah's presence nor the conflicting emotions added for good measure. It is about two common — Shah and Danny — trying to get rich quick. One does, the other doesn't and the film ends abruptly, but not before the director tries all the tricks in the book, ranging from smuggling to cold-blooded murder. A prostitute trying to gain respectability provides the romantic angle. It's better to forget this film.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 4712900; and Falcon Video, Abbasiya, Tel: 4316398.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.15 Cartoon serial
- 10.00 Al Jazir Min Hanan: Arabic serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rashed, Rabee'a Shihab, Shafiqah Tall
- 11.00 Baqaya Wajooob: Arabic serial, starring Ibrahim Sallal, Haifa Adel, Ayesha Ibrahim, Khalifa Omar
- 12.00 Kuwait Yesterday. Part One. An interview with Umm Abdullah, hosted by Jassim Ghareeb.
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 World News via Satellite/Closedown

EVENING

- 4.00 Holy Quran
- 4.15 World News via Satellite
- 4.45 The Adventures of Nelly: cartoon serial
- 5.15 Mama Anissa and Children
- 5.45 Ibn Attiya: historical serial, starring Majed Afouni, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marins and cartoons will also be shown.
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.15 Songs
- 7.30 Cultural Film
- 8.30 Good Evening
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.50 Loolu wa Asdaaf: Arabic serial
- 10.45 Fann wa Fikr (Art and Philosophy): presented by Amal Abdullah.



Marisa Tomei, Lisa Bonet and Dawn Lewis in the comedy 'A Different World', on KTV 2 tonight.

- 12.15 News Summary
- 12.20 World News via Satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

MONDAY

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Chocky's Challenge: episode 5.
- 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news and views.
- 7.30 Perspective: "Fire."
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 A Different World: "Does He or Doesn't He?" Comedy. Starring: Lisa Bonet.

Dawn Lewis, Marisa Tomei: "Now Eat This!" Documentary.

10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "Skeleton in the Closet." Thriller.

10.30 French Feature Film: "Les Quatre Vents de la France." Starring: Julie Christine, Francis Perréal.

11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

- 0000 Newscast
- 30 In Praise of God
- 0100 News Summary followed by Time Will Tell
- 45 The Intimate Brahms (ex 27th Chopin Collection)
- 0200 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Andy Kershaw's World of Music
- 30 Science in Action
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Food and Drink
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0400 Newscast
- 30 6th and 13th The War of the Worlds; 20th and 27th Dangerous in Love
- 45 Nature Now
- 0500 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Waveguide
- 40 Words of Faith
- 45 Recording of the Week
- 0600 Newscast
- 30 6th and 13th Phone-In; 20th and 27th Papa Wojtyla
- 0700 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Colours
- 0800 World News
- 09 Words of Faith
- 15 6th and 13th The War of the Worlds; 20th and 27th Dangerous in Love
- 30 Anything Goes
- 0900 World News
- 09 British Press Review
- 15 Food and Drink

- 30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
- 45 Andy Kershaw's World of Music
- 1000 News Summary followed by 6th and 13th Phone-In; 20th and 27th Papa Wojtyla
- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Health Matters
- 30 The Ken Bruce Show
- 1200 Newscast
- 15 My Music
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Colours
- 1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
- 45 The Picture of Dorian Gray
- 1500 Newscast
- 15 Time Will Tell (ex 13th Commonwealth Day Service; 27th Sportsweek)
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 6th and 13th The War of the Worlds; 20th and 27th Dangerous in Love
- 30 Health Matters
- 45 The World Today
- 1700 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Screenplay
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1800 Newscast
- 30 Multitrack 1: Top 20
- 1900 News Summary, followed by Outlook
- 25 Financial News
- 30 Network UK
- 45 Short Story
- 2000 World News
- 09 The World Today
- 25 Words of Faith

FM Services

- 0600 Opening/Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0940 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1300 Easy Listening
- 1330 News on FM Service
- 1340 Easy Listening
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Latin American
- 1800 Pops
- 1900 Helter Skelter
- 2000 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2200 Jazz
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Listening
- 3000 Closedown

Urdu

- 1900 Opening Holy Quran
- 1910 Behereen Qaul
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press report
- 1940 Islam aur Daul-e-Hazir
- 2000 News in Urdu
- 2020 Songs
- 2040 Humare Mehman
- 2100 Closedown

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Ghadir will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Salhiya Complex, mezzanine, Gate 5, daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Sultan Gallery
AN exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam is open at the gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St., daily except Friday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday - Wednesday, 4.30 - 5.30 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

MUSIC

Piano Concert
MARCH 14: Mouchira Issa in concert at Kuwait Sheraton Hotel, New Grand Ballroom. For reservations contact the banquet's office or call the hotel, ext. 104/107.

Jukebox 5
MARCH 18 (7 pm): Auditions for singers and dancers for the Sounds Great production.

tion of Jukebox 5 at Sunshine School, Salwa. The show will be produced by Ken Winston with June Woolston and Phil Thomas as musical directors. Naesh Hameed will choreograph the show. Dancers should bring their dance gear with them. Performances will be on May 15 and 18. For details ring 5740256 or 5625316.

Children's Dance Recital
MARCH 21/22 (6 pm): Steps School of Ballet will present a children's dance recital in the theatre of the Kuwait English School, Salwa. Tickets, KD2 are available at KES from 5 to 7 pm on weekdays. Tel: 5629356 ext 55 (pm only) or 5616228.

Beat Concert
MARCH 31: A beat concert featuring the Perfect Strangers will be held from 10 am at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. For details call Anthony D'Souza or Arjun Gehi. Tel: 2631826 or 2663693.

THEATRE

ACT
MARCH 27, 28, 29, 30 (8 pm): ACT presents "The Madwoman of Chaillot", directed by George Plautz, at Mouscat Theatre, Jabriya. For reservations call 5731782 (answerphone) or 5755391, 5-7 pm.

EXHIBITION

Higher Education in Britain
UNTIL March 15: Higher Education in Britain at Kuwait International Hotel features all aspects of higher education in the UK. British Council staff and visiting representatives from Scottish universities will give advice.

Far East Exhibition
TRADITIONAL rosewood furniture, silk and woollen carpets, decorative arts and handicrafts are on show at the exhibition at Kuwait International Hotel. Open throughout the day, until March 16.

Silk Painting Exhibition
MARCH 21-23 (5-9 pm): Ladies from the German-speaking cultural association will hold a silk painting exhibition at Kuwait International Hotel, Old Failaka room. Exhibits include Arab scenes, art nouveau and other subjects as well as cushions, scarves, brooches and a small Easter bazaar. All are welcome.

At Kuwait International
UNTIL March 16: Traditional English beefsteak buffet (lunch and dinner). Steak and kidney pie, roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, fish and chips, plus all trimmings.

At Mesallah Beach
MUBARAKIYAH Restaurant: Open 24 hours, buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner and snacks. Sundays: Ladies Day; Mondays: birthday special; Fridays: special buffet "a go go".

At the Ramada
AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner: 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

Thursday's is BBQ Night at Le Mirage Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al Arz Band.

The Friday Family Brunch introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery, train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.

The Marina Takeaway features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 pm to 11 pm.

At the Holiday Inn
EVERY Wednesday is "Sea Drama on Ice" in Al Dana. Enjoy fresh fish and seafood specialties. Thursday night is Indian night featuring exotic Eastern cuisine; and listen to the music played by the Gharibian Trio.

Enjoy Arabian Night in Al Andalus Supper club on Thursday nights. Friday brunch — fun time for families; games, prizes. Also open to Jaycee Club members.

At the Sheraton
RICCARDO'S: Italian cuisine prepared using home-made pasta; lunch and dinner, evening entertainment by the Sienna's Duo. Closed on Fridays.

Al Hambra: Sundays: Lebanese cuisine; Tuesdays: Thai Night; Wednesdays: seafood night; musicians provide a blend of music from the East and the West. Friday's buffet brunch while the children enjoy games in the Ballroom next door.

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The Marina Takeaway features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 pm to 11 pm.

At the Holiday Inn
EVERY Wednesday is "Sea Drama on Ice" in Al Dana. Enjoy fresh fish and seafood specialties. Thursday night is Indian night featuring exotic Eastern cuisine; and listen to the music played by the Gharibian Trio.

Enjoy Arabian Night in Al Andalus Supper club on Thursday nights. Friday brunch — fun time for families; games, prizes. Also open to Jaycee Club members.

At the Sheraton
RICCARDO'S: Italian cuisine prepared using home-made pasta; lunch and dinner, evening entertainment by the Sienna's Duo. Closed on Fridays.

Al Hambra: Sundays: Lebanese cuisine; Tuesdays: Thai Night; Wednesdays: seafood night; musicians provide a blend of music from the East and the West. Friday's buffet brunch while the children enjoy games in the Ballroom next door.

Hunt Room: lunch and dinner, specialises in meat and fish dishes.

Le Tarbouche: offers a taste of Lebanon for lunch and dinner. Thursdays: Arab world specialties night.

Coffee Shop offers casual meals and quick lunches plus a daily special.

SPORTS

Danish Darts Tournament
MARCH 17: Daniella invites all Danes to take part in a darts tournament. It will be held from 4 pm at Gazelle Club. Please register before March 8. Tel: Annette — 3723413; Ingrid — 3715637.

Fun Run
MARCH 17: 30 km fun run for teams at Mesallah Beach Hotel. Commences at 10 am. Registration is strictly limited. For details call Hugh McArree — 5326368 or Jon Evans — 5339867.

Keep-Fit Classes
AT Holiday Inn: Mondays (6-7 pm) separate ladies and men's keep fit classes; Saturdays (5-6 pm) ladies aerobics; (6-7 pm) mixed aerobics. Sundays: 5.30 pm. Squash handicap tournament. Contact the Holiday Inn for details.

At Kuwait International Hotel: Aerobics for ladies from 6 to 7 pm every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Yoga every Sunday and Tuesday from 8 pm to 9 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am.

Swimming starts March 6-22, Saturdays, Mondays, Wednesdays. For details contact the hotel's recreation manager Colin Hall.

Volleyball Tournament
MARCH 31: The Kuwait Malayalee Association will hold a volleyball tournament for Indians in connection with the Nehru Centenary celebrations. For details call Prem — 4675622 ext 293 (7 am - 3 pm). Last date for registration is March 15.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Nigo
Starring: Steve Segal

Al Salmiya
Three Men and a Baby
Starring: Tom Selleck, Steve Guttenberg

Al Hamra
Volunteers
Starring: Tom Hanks, John Kennedy

Al Fahheel
Cinderella 80
Al Jahra
Prize Fighter

Al Firdous
Surya (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Bhanu Priya, Raj Kumar, Amrish Puri

Fahheel and Ahmadi
Al Ahmadi Pharmacy
Souk Ahmadi

Old Khaitan
Al Ghazwa Pharmacy
North St

Jahra
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Do'obal Al Khizai St.

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.40 am
Zuhr	11.57
Asr	3.22 pm
Maghreb	5.56
Isha	7.12

Drive-In
Al Khademah (Arabic)
Starring: Nadia Jundi, Mamdouh Abdul Aleem

Al Firdous
Surya (Hindi)
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Bhanu Priya, Raj Kumar, Amrish Puri

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PREFERABLY in Abbasiya, sharing accommodation required for 3 Mangalorian bachelors to share with a Mangalorian or Goan family. Tel. Mr Mark Menezes, 4815619, 4849355. (AT1-46370-3)

For Rent

JABRIYA, Block 6, apartment in a new deluxe villa, CAC, 4 large rooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, 1 balcony and a hall with intercom and separate entrance. Rent KD420. Tel. Mr Mehdi, 5736851, 9 am - 1 pm, 4:30 - 9:30 pm. (AT3-46416-3)

KUWAIT City, behind Al Qar, behind the Kuwait International Hotel, 2 bedroom apartment in clean building with Tele., carpets and curtains, kitchen cabinets and bedroom cupboards. Rent KD170. Tel. 2541894. (AT2-46413-3)

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Tel. Mr Ali, 2412297, 8 am - 1 pm, 3926880, 4 - 8 pm.

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QURTUBA, one floor of deluxe villa, CAC, with 5 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 3 bathrooms, intercom and separate entrance. Tel. 5313656. (AT3-46430-3)

2 BEDROOM flat required on Fahd Al Salem Street. Tel. Mr Siso, 4838908. (AT3-46429-3)

Available

SALWA, House No. 196, Block 7, two large rooms with kitchen facilities for a family, bachelor or working girls to share with an Indian family. Rent KD45, 50 each room. Tel. 5611243. (AT2-46425-6)

RUMAITHIYA, fully furnished room with necessary requirements for one Indian person/working lady. Tel. 2438120-2 from 8 am-5 pm. (AT1-46391-3)

FARWANIYA, behind the Holiday Inn, 1 room in a 2 bedroom flat for a single Goan/Mangalorean bachelor to share with a Goan couple. Tel. Mr Philip, 4841983, 4849085, 4841788 (8 am - 3 pm). (AT1-46404-3)

FARWANIYA, behind the Holiday Inn. Accommodation available with tele. facilities for a single person to share with an Indian family. Tel. 4747321, 4743995. (AT3-46426-2)

KUWAIT City, near the Firdous Cinema, Jaber Al Mubarak Street. One room with tele. facilities for a Dawoodi Bohra family only. Tel. 2402974 (Res). (AT1-46389-3)

KUWAIT City, behind the G.P.O. One room with kitchen facilities for a family, working girls or bachelors to share with an Indian family. Tel. Lancy, 4815077 ext. 687, 9 am - 3 pm. (AT3-46439-3)

SALMIYA, opp. the Green Hill. Accommodation in a 2 bedroom CAC flat for a bachelor (American or European) to share with a sole occupant. Tel. Mr Martinis, 2405267, 8 am - 1 pm, 5732956, evening. (AT3-46425-3)

FOR SALE

Boats

MISTRAL Pandora windsurfer, 2 sails and many extras. New in Dec '88, KD430. Tel. John Mahon, 4714526 split shift. (AT1-46377-3)

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TOYOTA Cressida 1984 model, fully automatic, white with red interior and 4 cylinders, prefer to exchange with Chevrolet or Oldsmobile 98. Tel. 2448280 ext 225, 8 am - 3 only. (AT1-46371-3)

MERCEDES 500 SEL, 1981 model, in good running condition. For further information and the price Tel. 4841632, 4837146, 4818817. (AT1-46394-3)

BUICK Regal Limited, 1982, charcoal grey, 8 cylinders, fully automatic, 66,000 kms, comprehensive insurance up to June 1989, single owner driven. Best offer. Tel. 2541894. (AT2-46413-3)

JAGUAR XJ6, 1986 model, automatic, black, 34,000 kms, in good condition, KD4,800. Tel. 2423753. (AT2-46415-3)

SUZUKI Jeep 1981, mechanically good, KD200. Tel. Peter, 2439701 (mornings) 5313069 (evenings). (AT2-46403-2)

MITSUBISHI Lancer station wagon 1988, white, 54,000 kms, insured up to March 1990. In excellent condition, KD600 to owner, KD840 in instalments to company. Tel. 5519201, 5516301/2/3. (AT2-46400-2)

Miscellaneous

GARAGE sale of various household items, electrical goods, beds, cupboards, plants, children's clothes and toys. All are in good condition. Tel. 2527814, 9 am - 12 noon only. (AT3-TM-3)

SALMIYA, off Amman Street. 2 bedroom flat with large saloon with furniture including 3 A.C. units, carpets and curtains and fitted cupboard for sale. KD450. New rent KD170. Tel. Mrs Kathy, 2407866, off 5639442 (Res). (AT2-46405-2)

SOFA bed, IKEA Bollnäs in grey and red, purchased recently, in very good condition, cost new KD210 asking price, KD125. Tel. 5335967, after 2:30 pm. (AT3-46422-3)

ALL household articles including 2 A.C.'s in good condition for sale. Tel. Mr Hareesh, 4814856. (AT1-46401-3)

HOUSEHOLD items including TV, BBC computer, freezer, table tennis, keep fit items, books, ornaments, clothes, shoes, plants and games. Tel. 3710579, Res. (AT2-46418-3)

KAWAI piano, as new, KD 525, table tennis, bats, etc. KD 45. Fish tank, filters, etc. KD 10. Tel. Peter, 2439701 (mornings) 5313069 (evenings). (AT1-46403-3)

SITUATIONS

Vacant

COOK required immediately for a small family. Must speak and write English and know to cook European and Oriental dishes. Must have transferable residence. Tel. 2445111 ext 108, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. (AT1-46390-3)

MAID required for a small Indian family, part-time or full time. Visa can be provided. Tel. 5721231, after 10 am. (AT2-46412-3)

MAID required immediately for a family with one child. Tel. 5736535. (AT1-46335-3)

MAID required for a small family, part-time. Tel. 5721466, 4-7 pm. (AT2-46396-3)

DRIVER required for a Kuwaiti family for 3 months. Must be familiar with all areas in Kuwait. Tel. Mr Abu Ahmad, 2527710, 9017236, after 3 pm. (AT2-46421-3)

MAID required, for a small Indian family, preferably to live-in in Nagra. Residence will be given. Tel. 2644456, 8 am - 2 pm. (AT3-46433-2)

ALADY required to take care of a 2-year-old child to live-in or out. Must have previous experience with own children (Montessori education is preferred) and be fluent in English. Tel. 4732758, 8 am - 5 pm. (AT2-ADV-2)

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MAID required, Indian, Sri Lankan or Filipino for a small family full-time, in Abbasiya. Must speak English and Arabic. Tel. 4337204, Res 6-9 am, 7-11 pm or contact the New Maveli Store, near the Sri Raj garments store. (AT3-46436-2)

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ACCOUNTANT, well-experienced, seeks challenging position at a reputed company. Tel. Mahmood, 2433131, 2421707. (AT1-46407-3)

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PASSPORT No F 141324 in the name of Mrs Mahamada Cadija Karunawathie, Sri Lankan. Return please tele. 2403065. (AT1-46386-3)

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I GAUTAM Prakash Budde, holder of Indian passport No. C 179245 issued on 20-12-1987 valid up to 19-12-1992, wish to change my name to Gautam Budde Prakash. (AT3-46427-3)

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- 2) Assistant cooks

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2. Experienced marine electrician, both electric and electronics.
3. Licensed captain for yachts.
4. Helpers for mechanics & electricians.

Candidates should have a transferable residence permit and preferably holding Kuwaiti driving licence.

Apply with full details and copies of certificates to: P.O. Box 208, Post Code 13003, Safat, Kuwait.

REQUIRED

For a leading trading company

- 1) Accountant
 - 2) Assistant accountant
- Full time

Contact: 5728552
5711411
5734000
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VACANCY

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for big commercial complex with experience of cleaning outer glass-wall frames and cleaning device equipment operation ... etc...

Kindly send photo, bio-data and passport details with transferable residence, previous salary and contact Tel. No. within 5 days.

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Safat, 13003
Kuwait

مكتبة من الامارات

عرب ٹائمز

پیر ۹ شعبان ۱۴۰۹ھ ۱۲ مارچ ۱۹۸۹ء جیت ایڈیٹر احمد جبار اللہ

کراچی یونیورسٹی میں طلباء کے دو گروہوں میں تصادم کئی گھنٹے تک فائرنگ کا تبادلہ

کراچی - ۱۲ مارچ (پریس ایجنسی) - کراچی یونیورسٹی میں دو گروہوں میں تصادم کا تبادلہ فائرنگ کا تبادلہ کئی گھنٹے تک جاری رہا۔ پولیس نے فائرنگ کے دوران کئی طلباء کو زخمی کیا۔ پولیس نے فائرنگ کے دوران کئی طلباء کو زخمی کیا۔ پولیس نے فائرنگ کے دوران کئی طلباء کو زخمی کیا۔

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Injured Arthurton hits unbeaten 76

West Indies take 3-0 lead over India

PORT-OF-SPAIN, March 12. (Agencies): Keith Arthurton defied a hamstring injury to hit an unbeaten 76, his highest score in a one-day cricket international, as West Indies beat India by six wickets to take a winning 3-0 lead in their five-match series on Saturday.

West Indies triumphed in the third limited overs game at Queen's Park Oval by making 193 for four from 47.2 overs after dismissing India for 192, the innings ending with one delivery left in their 50 overs.

Curtly Ambrose, with two for 29 in his 10 overs, and fellow fast bowler Ian Bishop, who took four for 33, pegged back India after they had reached 113 for one.

West Indies were ultimately swept home by Arthurton and Gus Logie, who made 45 from only 57 balls, in an unbroken stand of 92 for the fifth wicket in 19 overs.

Penalty

Arthurton faced 114 balls and hit five boundaries, three of which came in one over from

Kapil Dev. But the left-hander from the tiny leeward island of Nevis paid the penalty for a succession of quick singles, tearing a hamstring and needing a runner after reaching his 50. Arthurton was named Man of the Match.

West Indies had got off to a bad start when Gordon Greenidge was lbw to Kapil pushing half-forward in only the third over, while Haynes followed soon after with the score at 34 when Kris Srikkanth took a fine catch high above his head at extra cover off Chetan Sharma.

Beaten

Richie Richardson spent 25 overs scoring only 30 before being run out by a magnificent throw from the cover boundary by Mohammed Azharuddin.

The key wicket of Viv Richards was taken by Narendra Hirwani, who was bowling at the West Indian captain for the first time since he dismissed him twice in the Madras Test of the 1987-88 series when the young leg-spinner took 16 wickets on his Test debut.

Richards was beaten in the



Arthurton

flight on this occasion and caught and bowled for three at 101 in the 28th over.

Had Kiran More in the same over not missed an easy stumping chance with Arthurton, then 33, well out of his ground, West Indies would have been in deep trouble.

Dilip Vengsarkar may have regretted his decision to bat after winning the toss, Srikkanth and Navjot Sidhu having a torrid

time early on as Ambrose and Bishop took advantage of a moist pitch to extract lift and movement.

It was not until the 18th over that Sidhu hit the first four of the innings, Courtney Walsh helping to contain the openers in a spell which produced the initial breakthrough.

Breakthrough

Walsh, who conceded only 22 runs from his 10 overs, struck in the 21st over with 47 on the board when the struggling Srikkanth — 17 from 64 balls — was caught hooking off the splice at mid-on. Indian hopes of a total well in excess of 200 were then made to look a distinct possibility thanks to a superb 66-run stand in only 37 minutes between Sidhu and Azharuddin, whose 36 from 35 balls included five boundaries.

The stand was broken when Azharuddin was run out by Greenidge from mid-on, having gone for a quick single after an overthrow by Haynes at cover. Sidhu reached a worthy 50 from 91 balls but then got out needlessly to a catch at long-on

off Richards just when he was needed to stay.

The last 10 overs were a bitter disappointment for India, who lost seven wickets for only 53 with no one giving Vengsarkar — 38 from 45 balls — any real support.

Scoreboard

Final score: India 192 off 49.5 overs. West Indies 193 for 4 wickets off 47.2 overs.

WEST INDIES
C.G. Greenidge lbw b Kapil Dev 3
D.L. Haynes c Srikkanth b C.K. Sharma 18
R.B. Richardson run out 36
K.L.T. Arthurton not out 76
V.A. Richardson c b Hirwani 3
A.L. Logie not out 45
Extras (b-2, lb-7, w-2, nb-7) 18
TOTAL: for four wickets off 47.2 overs 193

Wickets fell at: 1-11 (Greenidge), 2-34 (Haynes), 3-83 (Richardson), 4-101 (Richards).
Best bowling: Kapil Dev 9-0-35-1 (sh), w/c, S.S. Sharma 5-0-23-1 (sh), w/c, A.K. Sharma 5-0-24-0, Shastri 10-2-31-0, Hirwani 10-0-45-1, Srikkanth 4-0-19-0, Singh 1-0-7-0 (sh).
Result: West Indies won by 6 wickets.
Fourth match: St. John's, Antigua, March 18.

Hookes gambles in bid for Shield final

SYDNEY, March 12. (Reuters): South Australian captain David Hookes is likely to give Tasmania a chance of victory tomorrow with a tempting declaration in a bid to go top of the Sheffield Shield and win the right to host the final later this month.

After gaining two crucial first innings points, South Australia had increased their overall lead to 160 for the loss of only one second innings wicket at the close of the third day of the four-day match.

South Australia dismissed Tasmania for 356 midway through the final session and then raced to 60 for one in their second innings, the one man out, Brett Williams, making 40 off 38 balls with three fours and two sixes.

Declaration

South Australia made 455 in their first innings.

Queensland, joint second in the table with South Australia before the start of the final matches, also made a declaration in the hope of overall victory but had to give up the chance of first innings points to do it.

However, they face the tough task of having to defeat New South Wales, who also have an outside chance of a berth in the final, to do it and by the close their chances looked slim.

Queensland skipper Allan Border took the gamble by declaring at 230 for six in reply to New South Wales' first innings 301 for six declared. New South Wales were 111 for three in their second innings at the close, an overall lead of 182.

Rain frustrated the bid by current leaders Western Australia to clinch a final place when more than five hours play was lost in their match against last placed Victoria.

Their bowlers failed to make a breakthrough in the short amount of play possible and Victoria go into the final day on 97 without loss in reply to Western Australia's massive 533 for six in their first innings.

New Zealand and World XI match cancelled

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, March 12. (AP): A one-day cricket match between New Zealand and a World XI scheduled for later this month has been cancelled because not enough top-class players are available, New Zealand cricket officials said today.

The match, slated for March 18, clashed with domestic competition matches in Australia, ruling out Australia Test players Dean Jones, Merv Hughes, Simon O'Donnell and Tony Dodemaide.

A hamstring injury ruled out another leading Australian player, David Boon.

The World XI was to be made up mostly of Australian and Pakistani players as well as Zimbabwe-born batsman Graeme Hick, who has ambitions of playing for England.

English county team Worcestershire refused to release Hick for the game.

"It's a regrettable decision because we would have loved to have staged the match and it would have been a good way to finish the season," said Auckland Cricket Association chairman Peter McDermott.

Meanwhile, the New Zealand cricket selectors today retained the team beaten by seven wickets yesterday for Tuesday's fourth and final one-day cricket international against Pakistan in Hamilton.

Scottish runner breaks world 10-km loop record

ORLANDO, Florida, March 12. (AP): Scotland's Liz McColgan broke the women's world best for a 10-kilometre loop course for the third consecutive year, beating Norway's great distance runner, Ingrid Kristiansen, in the Red Lobster 10K classic yesterday.

McColgan, the 1988 Olympic silver medalist at 10,000 metres, was timed in 30 minutes, 38 seconds, for the 6.2-mile loop course, erasing the world mark of 30:59 she set in this race last year. McColgan won the 1987 Red Lobster race in 31:07, also a world best at the time.

Yesterday's overall race winner was Keith Brantly of the United States, in a course-record 28:02, a one-second margin over runner-up William Musyoki of Kenya. The old course record of

28:13 was set by Marcos Barreto of Mexico in this race in 1987.

This time, four runners went under that time, including Mexico's Geraldo Alcala, third in 28:06, and John Gregorick, fourth in 28:11.

Third

Brantly, who had to leap over a loose dog about halfway through the race, virtually collapsed as he crossed the finish line and had to be helped through the chutes.

McColgan, the silver medalist in the 3,000 metres in last weekend's World Indoor Track and Field Championships at Budapest, Hungary, was much fresher at the end than Brantly and had an easier time throughout the race.

Her victory margin over Kristiansen, the outdoor world

record-holder for 5,000 and 10,000 metres, and the fastest women's marathoner in history, was more than a minute.

Kristiansen was clocked in 31:39, five seconds ahead of third-place finisher Lynn Williams of Canada.

"I didn't expect to run as fast as I did," said McColgan, 24, a former standout distance runner at Alabama. "I thought Ingrid would give me a better race."

Accomplished

"A year ago, I was considered one of the best, but I didn't believe I was. This year, after the Olympics and what I accomplished last year, I came in with a lot of confidence."

"I believe I am one of the best."

McColgan earned \$34,500, including a \$25,000 bonus for

setting a world best. Brantly received \$9,500 including a \$2,000 bonus for breaking the course record.

"I didn't run for the money ... (but) obviously it's a great incentive seeing it in the bank," McColgan said.

Surprisingly, Brantly said the unexpected appearance of the dog on the course helped him.

"It seemed like I got 8 to 10 yards (metres) by hurdling the dog, so I thought I would throw in another surge to see if it would work," he said. "But I didn't break away as much as I thought I would."

Nearly 3,000 runners competed in ideal temperature of 50 degrees F (10 degrees C) — the first time in five years it did not rain on race day. Only strong winds marred the race.

South Korean wins men's speedskating

SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 12. (AP): South Korea's Joon-Ho Lee won the men's 500-metre speedskating race yesterday and American Andy Gabel was given the silver medal after the No. 2 and No. 3 finishers were disqualified for excessive contact.

Ki-Hoon Kim of South Korea and Kotaro Aioi of Japan finished finals in the second and third position but were disqualified after the race for excessive contact with one lap remaining in the 4:1-2 lap race staged in the ice hockey rink in Sofia.

Gabel, who finished fourth in the race, was awarded second place. The third place was vacated after the disqualification of the only two other competitors in the four-man finals.

Cristina Sciollo of Italy won the women's 500-metre race over Hye Ran Chong of North Korea and Hongru Guo of China.

Heiko Hunder of East Germany easily won the 70-metre (229-foot) ski jump with jumps of 84 and 93.5 metres (276 and 307 feet) for 221 points.

Jaroslav Madry of Poland was second with jumps of 84.5 and 83.5 metres (277 and 274 feet) and Mark Konopacke of the United States finished with the bronze medal after jumps of 81.5 and 82.5 metres (267 and 271 feet).

Alberto Ghezze of Italy captured the men's slalom and Klemen Bergant of Yugoslavia won the men's combined, an event featuring point total in downhill, slalom and giant slalom.

The Soviet Union won both events in water skiing tricks competition, as Yuri Rikter won the men's division and Natalie Rumianzhva took the women's events, which were held in an indoor 50-metre swimming pool here.

Finland beat South Korea in ice hockey 7-3 to run its record to 2-1-2. South Korea dropped to 1-4 for the tourney.

Bayern win

BONN, March 12. (Reuters): Leaders Bayern Munich stretched their unbeaten run in the West German soccer League to 21 games with a 1-0 home win over Hamburg yesterday.

Striker Jurgen Wegmann hit the winner in the 58th minute, beating the nervous-looking Hamburg goalkeeper, Richard Golz, who had earlier been lucky to save shots from Klaus Augenthaler and Hans Pflueger.

A crowd of 54,000 gathered in the expectations that Hamburg could halt Bayern's sequence, saw the Bavarians extend their sequence with only an average performance in Munich's Olympic stadium.



World Cup Alpine skiing overall winners of 1988/89 season, Marc Girardelli (left) of Luxembourg and Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, lift trophies during the season's final awarding in Shiga Kogen, Japan, yesterday.

Stenmark skies his last World Cup race

Schneider crowned champion

SHIGA KOGEN, Japan, March 12. (AP): Sweden's incomparable Ingemar Stenmark skied his last World Cup race today while Swiss superstar Vreni Schneider was crowned women's champion after a record-setting season.

Schneider, 24, won an unprecedented 14 victories during this year's World Cup competition, which ended here today.

Nearly 27,000 spectators cheered Stenmark, who will be 33 on March 18 although he fell and was disqualified in the dual parallel slalom race, held by tradition on the last day of the World Cup season.

Retirement

The parallel race counts towards countries' team points but not for individual standings. Stenmark's last individual race was Friday's slalom, when he skied off course and also was disqualified.

Austrian Bernhard Gstrein beat Swiss star Pirmin Zurbriegen in the finals Sunday to win the men's parallel race. The women's race was won by Chantal Bournis of Switzerland, who beat Michaela Gerg of West Germany. American Tamara McKinney was third.

Stenmark, who has announced his retirement at the end of this season, won a record 86

World Cup races in his 16-year career. "It's not easy to beat my record," he said last week. "I think it will remain unbeaten."

Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg is a distant second with 27 career victories.

"I do not have 100 per cent motivation for ski training and the race itself as before," Stenmark told reporters in Furano, northern Japan. In last week's round of World Cup competition, "Skiing was pleasant before but it's not so pleasant now."

Schneider won the women's overall title for the first time this year, along with the giant slalom and slalom titles.

She swept all seven slaloms during the season, beginning at Altenmarkt, Austria, in December, and won six of the seven giant slaloms starting with the season opener in Les Menuires-Val Thorens, France. She also won one combined title.

"Of course I want to keep on winning but I don't know if I can next year," she said. "It's not just talent, it's also luck."

Capture

Marc Girardelli, who was born in Austria but skies for Luxembourg, captured the overall men's title for the third time before coming to Japan.

Girardelli also became the first person to win all four skiing disciplines — downhill, slalom, giant and super-giant slalom — along with one combined event during the same season.

Italian star Alberto Tomba, despite a strong showing last year, won only once this season but still finished third in the men's overall standings.

Austrian Rudolf Nierlich posted two consecutive victories in Japan to bring his World Cup wins this season to four.

Ole Christian Furuseth, Norway's Nordic-turned-Alpine skier, emerged as a serious contender in Japan as he posted his first two World Cup wins, a slalom and giant slalom.

Trailing Schneider in the women's overall standings were Swiss teammates Maria Walliser and Michela Figini, helping propel the Swiss to the team title.

It was the first time for the World Cup competition to be held here at Shiga Kogen Ski Resort near Nagano City, about 180 kms (110 miles) northwest of Tokyo.

Nagano hopes to host the winter Olympics in 1998.

The men's 1989-90 World Cup season will start in Thredbo, Australia, Aug. 12 and the women's season will begin at Las Lenas, Argentina, in mid-August, according to tentative schedules.

Passler wins biathlon event

OSTERSUND, Sweden March 12. (AP): Johan Passler of Italy edged Lars Wiklund of Sweden by four seconds to win a 10-kilometre (6.2-mile) World Cup biathlon event yesterday.

Eirik Kvalfoss of Norway was only eighth, but retained his World Cup overall lead with 195 points. Alexander Popov of the Soviet Union, who was ninth, is second with 181 points.

Passler, who won two Olympic bronze medals in the 20-kilometre (12.4-mile) and the 30-kilometre (18.6-mile) relay last year, missed once at one of the two shooting stations and had to ski a penalty lap around a 150-metre (492-foot) penalty course. The winning time was 26 minutes, 26 seconds. Passler is not among the top five overall.

Wiklund didn't record a miss with his rifle, hitting all 20 shots from a standing and prone position.

Andre Semisch of East Germany also turned in a perfect shooting performance to finish third in 26:33.

Toru Kozasu wins marathon

TOKYO, March 12. (AP): Toru Kozasu edged out Tetsu Japanese Takahiko Izumi by 300 metres today to win the 44th Lake Biwa Mainichi marathon.

Running in his third marathon race, Kozasu, 24, finished in two hours, 14 minutes, 31 seconds, while Izumi was second in 2:15.24.

V.K.L. Samarasinghe of Sri Lanka was ninth in 2:19.27, the best showing among nine non-Japanese who took part in the race along the shores of Lake

Biwa in Central Japan in warm 20C (68 F) weather.

Eighty runners began the race but officials said 34 runners withdrew, apparently because of the high temperature.

Kiyoshi Yoshikawa, a Osaka Physical Education University senior running his second marathon, took the lead at the 23-kilometre point, but was passed by Kozasu, Izumi and a group of other runners at 33 kilometres. Kozasu spurred ahead about two kilometres later to win the race.

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